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Kent on Sunday

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Mid edition No 774

POLICING

Sharp increase in crime figures

PCC admits disappointment at latest statistics

HEALTH

Fresh row over blood inquiry

Victim says 'zero confidence' in Department of Health

HOUSING

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Does party allegiance silence funding concern?

THE rise in crime figures announced this week is a little concerning and presents something of a difficulty when it comes to the role of our elected police and crime commissioner.

Because while many will be pointing to a rise in crime - with particular spikes in sex offences and violent crimes - coming at the same time as a 30-year low in the number of police officers on the street, the man who is our public link to the force,is also an elected representative of the party which has imposed much of the funding cuts.

For all her flaws, previous incumbent Ann Barnes did at least fly a flag as an independent candidate, devoid of political allegiance - openly at least. She could criticise parties of all colours and not find herself getting an angry missive the following day from her party's head office.

But Matthew Scott, as the Conservative candidate, finds himself in that awkward position of being unable to bite the hand which arguably delivered him electoral success.

Of course, there is much to suggest that a change in the way crimes are reported contributed to the rise, yet there is also a considerable requirement for the police not to be giving any form of signal that crime is rising because there are simply not enough of them to keep an eye on things. But it's an obvious conclusion to come to. Rightly, or, indeed, wrongly.

In recent years, every political party who has held power has known the importance of being tough on crime. Whatever political hue you may be, no one wants to live in a society where crime makes us anxious.

Matthew Scott has become an expert in keeping a low profile - he may find he wins more plaudits by occasionally being a little more outspoken.

Editor **Chris Britcher**

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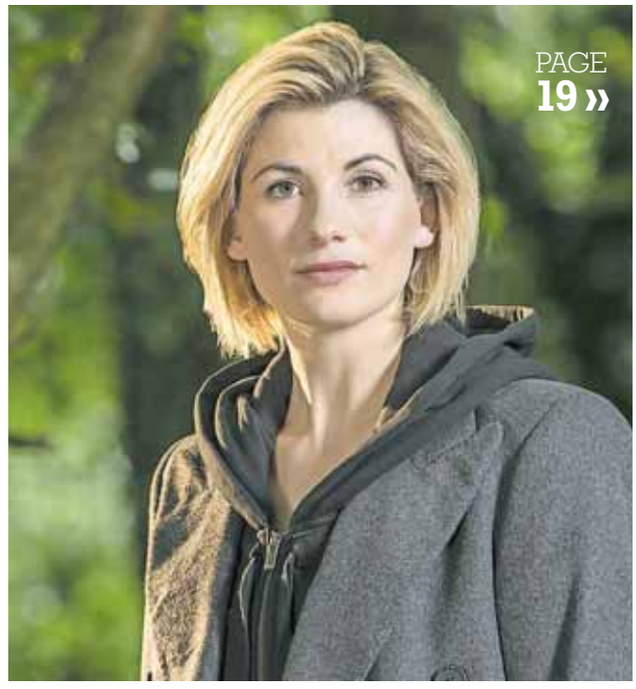

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Violence and sex crimes on the rise across county

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

KENT's police and crime commissioner admits he is "disappointed" after figures released this week showed the number of sexual offences recorded by the force rose by almost a third last year.

Data from the Office for National Statistics shows the force received 4,090 reports of sexual offences between April 2016 and March, up from 3,114 in the 12 months before - a rise of 31 per cent.

Figures also demonstrated a huge rise in the number of violent crimes reported and a 17 per cent spike in reported robberies, though the number of burglaries and drug offences logged was down on 2015/16.

Across the county, total recorded crime was up by 16 per cent, with 131,575 offences recorded in 2016/17, compared to 113,472 the previous year.

PCC Matthew Scott said: "The increase in police recorded crime here in Kent will obviously cause concern among the public - I'm naturally quite disappointed myself - but we've been seeing these trends for several months.

CONCERNED: Police and crime commissioner Matthew Scott admitted he was disappointed in the figures

"I've invested in schemes and campaigns to encourage victims, particularly victims of domestic abuse and hate crime, to seek help. Where those victims come forward, Kent Police will rightly record their incidents as crimes even if the incidents were non-recent. That partly explains the recorded rise in violent crimes.

"The fact that other crimes, like burglary, are down is good to see. But I am not complacent."

Kent Police's assistant chief constable, Tony Blaker said: "It is important to put this rise into context.

"In real terms, we have seen a five-10 per cent increase in the volume of incidents reported to us, and with the strict application of Home Office recording rules, this results in a 30 per cent increase in crimes we are recording.

"For example, a person may approach another person who has three children with them. They may swear at the adult. This would result in four public order offences, one of swearing at the other adult, and three of swearing in front of the children.

"The largest increases in violent crime are in categories which involve no injury. Whilst we take these matters seriously, it is important to put these latest figures into context."

£400m flagship project sees planning process begin for 1,400 homes

A PLANNING application for a £400 million development at Rochester Riverside has finally been submitted.

The redevelopment of the area has been in discussion for years and is described as a flagship project in Medway Council's on-going regeneration programme.

Now it has formally submitted an outline planning application to build up to 1,400 homes and create 1,200sq m of commercial space. It follows a string of public consultations.

The outline planning application includes provision for a primary school and nursery, as well as a pedestrian footbridge, parking, open space and landscaping. In total, over four hectares of new open space will be provided across the masterplan.

Full planning permission is being sought for phases one, two and three of the development, which will see the construction of 489 homes and a hotel, along with 885 sq m of commercial floorspace, site access, parking, open space and landscaping.

The site comprises 21 hectares of brownfield development land, stretching from Rochester Bridge in the north to Doust Way in the south.

Countryside Properties and Hyde have been selected to transform the area over the next 12 years, building around 1,400 new homes, of which 25 per cent will be affordable housing.

Rodney Chambers, Medway's Council's portfolio holder for inward investment, strategic regeneration and partnership said: "I look forward to seeing how the feedback from the public engagement events have been weaved into the plans.

"The proposed development is set to boost the local economy providing new jobs, shops and facilities and helping us to meet the needs of Medway's growing population."

The land on which the scheme is proposed is owned by Medway Council and the Home and Communities Agency.

Funeral details confirmed for murdered Molly McLaren

THE family of a student who was brutally murdered in a shopping centre car park have confirmed her funeral will take place in Gravesend next month.

Molly McLaren, 23, from Cobham, was killed on June 29 near the Dockside Outlet Centre after sustaining injuries consistent with a stabbing.

The University of Kent student's funeral will be on August 21 at 11am at Gravesend Crematorium before moving on to The Leather Bottle, the pub in which she used to work.

Joshua Stimpson, 25 and of High Street in Wouldham, Rochester, was arrested at the scene on suspicion of murder and charged the following day. A trial start date has been set for January 22.

Rail warning as three key stations are closed today

PASSENGERS planning on using the rails this weekend are being warned there will be no Southeastern services running in or out of Charing Cross, Waterloo East or London Bridge today (Sunday).

As a result of engineering works, all services will instead be diverted to Cannon Street.

During the full day of closures, tickets will be accepted on London Underground services and the route 15 bus service between Charing Cross and Cannon Street.

Buses will replace trains between Dartford and Crayford/Slade Green.

It is also recommended you check before you travel as some services being rerouted may alter timetabled departure times. See Southeastern's website for details.

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seven days

Stories which made the headlines @kentnews.co.uk during the past week

Hospital's UK first into haemophilia treatment

THE UK's first patient-led study into haemophilia treatments has been launched at Kent & Canterbury Hospital.

The Kent Haemophilia and Thrombosis Centre focuses on the condition that prevents blood clotting naturally. Dr Kim Elliott, consultant in haemostasis, said: "Haemophilia A is an inherited long term condition where people have problems with bleeding into joints and muscles.

"They are missing a protein called Factor VIII from their blood and often need treatment to replace this in the form of regular injections. The study, called A-SURE, is gathering important information on how patients respond to a newer, longer-lasting Factor VIII treatment."

Labour storm out during latest battle in war over children centres' future

By Tom Pyman
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LABOUR councillors dramatically stormed out of a council meeting this week as the row over the the future of children's centres in Medway boiled over.

Before the meeting in Chatham on Thursday night, parents and campaigners protested outside the chamber at plans to close 19 Sure Start centres across the district and create four 'super hubs' in its place.

The hubs would combine children's centre services for 0-5-year-olds, with early help teams who work with families and children who are aged five and upwards and the Conservative-controlled council says this means families would benefit from a whole host of services under one roof.

However, there has been hostility in response, with Labour frontbencher Angela Raynor even getting involved, describing the plans as "an absolute scandal".

VOTE: Tempers flared over plans

Labour had proposed a motion calling on the cabinet to give £55,000 of ward improvement funds back to the Sure Start budget in order to "help facilitate the transition to any new delivery model which may emerge after the consultation".

However, Conservative councillors proposed an amendment, which read: "This council notes the pressure placed on Medway's children's centres and their important services by budgetary constraints. It further notes that Medway Council has conducted extensive public consultation in relation to the provision of Sure Start centres in Medway.

"This council calls upon the cabinet to carefully evaluate the outcome of the consultation, and to respond in a way which takes account of the needs of service users."

The amendement removed a description of the centres as "invaluable" and their services as "vital".

As a result, opposition members slammed the amendment and walked out of the chamber, refusing to take part in a vote.

The remaining councillors then passed the motion. The proposals will be discussed further at an overview and scrutiny meeting before the cabinet meets again on August 8.

WEALTHY: Len Goodman

Strictly judge's big BBC wage is revealed

FORMER Strictly Come Dancing judge Len Goodman has been named as one of the BBC's top earners, with a pay packet in excess of £200,000 it was revealed this week.

The star, who runs a dance school in Dartford, was on the list of top earners published by the corporation.

Mr Goodman, 73, announced he was stepping down from the top-rated show last year and bowed out during the Christmas special.

And in doing so he has kissed goodbye to a salary between £200,000 and £249,999.

The list, which the BBC was forced to produce by the government as part of its new 11-year royal charter, includes 96 actors, presenters, journalists and panelists who were paid more than £150,000.

Mr Goodman, who owns The Goodman Dance Academy in Dartford, and his fellow head judge Bruno Tonioli were paid the same amount, while Craig Revel Horwood - who performed in Bromley's pantomime last year - was paid less, earning between £150,000 and £199,000.

However, one of the show's co-presenters, Claudia Winkleman was the highest earning female in the BBC having been paid more than £400,000.

Funding boost in fight against rogue landlords

A CASH boost of more than half a million pounds has been handed to Thanet District Council (TDC) to help protect migrant families and vulnerable residents from rogue landlords.

The town hall's housing team is the first in the south east to have had a bid approved by the Department for Communities and Local Government after growing fears that locals are being exploited by private-sector property moguls.

The £557,000 funding over two years will enhance the Margate Task Force with a rogue landlord and community cohesion team - which will proactively focus on specific activities to help improve housing conditions for Thanet's most vulnerable.

Lin Fairbrass, deputy leader at TDC said: "Those born outside of the UK are almost three times more likely to be in the private rental sector than UK-born, leaving them exposed to rogue landlords and poor housing conditions. What's more, they often lack the knowledge or basic language skills to improve their situation."

Politicians demand Crossrail extension

MPs from across Kent and Bromley have united to demand an extension of Crossrail to Ebbsfleet in the next south eastern rail franchise.

Some 12 local MPs wrote a six-page letter to rail minister Paul Maynard in response to the government's recent consultation into the future of train services in the region.

The group, all Conservatives, outlined concerns regarding issues such as overcrowding and capacity and called on the government to ensure high standards of customer service and passenger facilities as well as the extension of Crossrail - now known as the Elizabeth Line - from Abbey Wood in Bexley down to north Kent.

Maidstone and the Weald MP Helen Grant was one of the signatories on the letter. She said: "The document covers not only the train operators, but also issues for Network Rail and extends to a demand for Crossrail to be extended to Ebbsfleet, a major strategic step for Kent and for Maidstone in particular, as a link to its existing high speed service."

Dickens' building is open again to public

AN historical building in Rochester, which featured in two of Charles Dickens' best known novels, has reopened following a £2.1m restoration.

Built in 1590, the Grade I-listed Elizabethan Eastgate House received the cash from the National Lottery and Medway Council and has been the focus of a conservation project over the last two years.

It featured in the Pickwick Papers and the Mystery of Edwin Drood by Dickens, who grew up in the town.

Part of the work was to reinstate a staircase that was removed more than a century ago along with repairs to the roof, windows and flooring.

Medway Council's portfolio holder for community services, Howard Doe said: "It's important to conserve the area's rich heritage.

"Eastgate House is just one of the many assets which links Medway to Charles Dickens, and we think it's important to conserve the area's rich heritage for future generations to enjoy."

The building opened for visitors again on Thursday.

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MP calls for Banksy to gain listed status to keep it in town

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

A SENIOR government minister has been urged to help protect a piece by coveted street artist Banksy, which appeared in Dover earlier this year, from being demolished.

Local MP Charlie Elphicke launched a 'Save Our Banksy' campaign last month in a bid to keep the artwork, which depicts a workman on a ladder chipping away at one of the 12 stars on the European Union flag, in the port town.

It is currently located on the side of the former Castle Amusements building, which is set to be demolished, and property owners the Godden family, which also owned the building upon which he daubed his previous Kent work - Art Buff in Folkestone - said the piece is likely to be removed and sold, and that they were looking at options with a London art gallery.

Mr Elphicke has written to Historic England and asked for the piece to be listed, and his proposals will be sent to the Department for Culture, Media and Science for consideration.

The MP then asked arts minister John Glen at a meeting in the House of Commons last week to help maintain the artwork.

"I'm doing all I can to Save Our Banksy," Mr Elphicke said.

CAMPAIGN: The Banksy has become a landmark in the port town. Pic: ADY KERRY

"I told the minister how much it is loved in the town and why we must protect it. The Banksy may be worth millions – but to the people of Dover it is priceless.

"He said he will examine our case carefully when it is sent to the department."

Dover District Council chiefs met last month to discuss the future of the piece, having been urged by a scrutiny committee to explore available options to protect is "as a matter of urgency".

Whilst noting that it was a matter for the land owner, the cabinet said it would welcome keeping the mural in Dover, although not necessarily on the same site, as long as it did not impede the town centre, Bench Street, Western Docks master plan development.

Mr Elphicke added: "The new waterfront development should have this Banksy at its heart – as a central attraction. It will draw so many people to visit the town and help make the development a success."

Tunnel closures over course of weekend

MOTORISTS are being warned of overnight closures at the Dartford Crossing this weekend.

The eastern tunnel at the crossing will be closed on Saturday and Sunday night between 9pm and 5.30am.

Closures are being put in place to carry out routine maintenance to assure the crossing remains safe for motorists crossing to and from Kent and Essex.

Dunkirk premiere stars RNLI crew duo

TWO members of the RNLI in Ramsgate attended the world premiere of blockbuster movie Dunkirk in Leicester Square this week.

Coxswain Ian Cannon and crew-member daughter Becky were invited as his great-great-uncle Alf Moody was a lifeboatman in Ramsgate who went off to help stranded troops in 1940.

Mini crossbow alert

TRADING standards are warning over the rise in toothpick crossbows - the latest product raising serious safety concerns after causing serious injury to a child in China. Small enough to fit in the hand of a child, the crossbow can be made of wood, plastic or metal and fires a sharp missile.

Anyone who sees one for sale in Kent should report it.

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War heroes to lend names to streets of garden city growth

KEY roads within the Ebbsfleet Garden City development are set to be named after local war heroes.

Dartford Borough Council chiefs will next week look to approve 16 new road names at Eastern Quarry and the Northfleet West Substation in memory of servicemen who fell during the First World War.

The proposed names - Croucher, Danzey, Day, Embleton, Eyres, Farmer, Freeman, Giles, Hoadley, Humble, Mason, Outred, Ovens, Raven, Simmons and Tickner - were all from the same regiment and are listed on memorials within the wards the developments fall under.

The proposal comes just months after local government chiefs issued advice to councils not to name streets after people because they might one day be linked to inappropriate activities.

Bosses in Leeds were left red-faced and with a large bill to pay after having to replace signs named after Jimmy Savile before his life of crime was revealed.

Dartford leader Jeremy Kite told us earlier this year: "Councils should be trusted over re-naming roads after local people, and they are then accountable for those decisions."

Trio appointed to become county deputy lieutenants

THREE county figures have been appointed deputy lieutenants of Kent in recognition of their positive contributions to the area.

The lieutenancy of Kent, headed by lord-lieutenant, Viscount De L'Isle, aims to provide "a focus for county identity, unity and pride, give a sense of stability, recognise achievements and excellence and promote service to others".

The first appointment is Louise Bryant, from Tonbridge, who sits as a magistrate on the adult and family panels of the Central Kent Bench. She has assisted a number of charities including the Citizen Advice Bureau in the town. She also owns a coconut farm in Brazil.

The second appointment is the Lord Colgrain. For the last 30 years, he has continued to oversee the running of his family farm in Sevenoaks, was a previous high sheriff of Kent and is president of the Kent County Agricultural Society.

Finally, chartered accountant Clive Stevens is chairman of the accountancy firm Kreston Reeves. He is also chairman of the trustees of the Turner Contemporary in Margate and deputy chair of inward investment organisation Locate in Kent.

Viscount De L'Isle said: "We welcome these exceptional new deputy lieutenants whose wide breadth of experience will further add to a strong team of men and women who help me support the Queen and her family within the ceremonial county of Kent."

£3m charity cash fund

MAIDSTONE MP Helen Grant is calling on charities and community groups to apply for a share in the People's Postcode Lottery's £3 million fund.

The funding is for projects with cash offered over two years from 2018. It has so far invested £7.3m in 24 projects in the UK.

Blaze in 35m high hedge

CREWS were called to tackle a blaze in a 35-metre high conifer hedge in Cranbrook on Friday.

The alert was raised just after noon in Swattenden Lane and brought under control in a little over an hour.

The cause of the fire is yet unknown.

Girl, 7, raises fire alarm

A SEVEN-year-old girl from Swanley saved her elderly neighbour's life when she raised the alarm after seeing smoke coming from their house.

Isabelle Lowden had been playing in Shurlock Avenue when she ran to alert her parents who called 999.

Chocolate lorry blaze

A LORRY carrying chocolate bars caught fire on Thursday forcing major delays on the A2 throughout Thursday.

The queues built up on the London-bound carriageway between the Ebbsfleet and M25 junctions from just after 6.30am for eight hours.

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Relief as A20 limit is lifted

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

THE scrapping of a much-criticised speed limit on a key road towards the Port of Dover has been hailed by the local MP as "a huge victory".

Tory Charlie Elphicke has been at the forefront of the campaign to restore the national speed limit on the A20, after frustrated drivers have been restricted to 40mph when coming off the M20 motorway.

The restriction, which has been in place since 2015, was removed at 8pm on Monday evening, and temporary 40mph limit will now only be used when the traffic lights that control traffic on approach to the port are in use.

Mr Elphicke said: "This is a huge victory for the people of Dover and Deal. We have battled relentlessly to scrap the hated 40mph limit on the A20.

"Highways England should have got this work finished much sooner. But at long last the speed limit is being lifted.

"This will be a huge relief to drivers across Dover and Deal. I would like to say thank you to every single resident who has written to me and Highways England to help our campaign.

PORT: Traffic will no longer have to crawl on approach to Dover

"With the 40mph limit going – this should help tackle the problem of lorries using Capel, Elms Vale and the Alkham Valley Road as rat-runs. Yet we must remain vigilant."

Highways England regional director Simon Jones said: "I am delighted that we've met this key commitment to restore the national speed limit on the A20 in time for the busy summer holiday season.

"Removing the 40mph limit will speed up journeys for the many thousands of people who'll be using Dover to get away on their holidays this summer, as well as people living and working in Dover."

Barbara Buczek, Port of Dover director of corporate development and operational businesses, added: "The return of the national speed limit on the A20 will enhance journeys to, through and around Dover for residents, holiday makers and the nation's trade.

"Alongside Highways England, the port and its partners are always looking for new and innovative ways to improve the effectiveness and fluidity of traffic movements at Dover."

Battle to beat obesity danger

A CAMPAIGN has been launched to help children become more active after figures showed one in three Kent pupils leave primary school overweight or obese.

The data also suggests one in five begin primary school overweight or obese and health chiefs are concerned it means they are more likely to become obese adults.

In Kent, nearly 65 per cent of people aged over 16 fall into that category - more than 800,000. As a result Kent County Council is supporting Public Health England's 10 Minute Shake Up campaign.

Mystery star for Dreamland

A SPECIAL mystery big name is set to perform, for free, at Margate's Dreamland next weekend.

The show on July 29 will include BBC Radio One DJ Danny Howard and festival favourites the Cuban Brothers on the outdoor stage.

The identity of the performer will be announced on the night at the Sunset Session which runs from 7pm to 10pm. Wristbands for rides will also be on special offer.

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Wednesday: Sightseeing today as we view Laugharne, Pendine Sands, Amroth, Wiseman's Bridge and free time in Tenby.

Thursday: Today is left free so you can stroll into town and enjoy time in delightful Saundersfoot.

Friday: A last, hearty Welsh breakfast we leave for home.

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3 AUGUST HAMLET AT ROCHESTER CASTLE
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Hamlet has everything going for him. A wealthy prince living the good life. But when his father dies, his world starts to fall apart.
His mother marries his uncle and Hamlet loses his succession to the throne. He struggles to understand his new world. He faces a difficult choice: to accept it or rebel against it.
Changeling Theatre presents Hamlet - Shakespeare's enduring tale of human mortality and struggle at outdoor venues across Kent this Summer to mark the company's 20th anniversary.
All seating is unreserved. Please bring your own blankets/low-backed chairs - seating is not provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnics & refreshments. There are no refreshments available on site.

3 AUGUST CHEER UP YORK! CRAFTS 10.30AM TO 3.30PM
Inspired by Changeling Theatre's performance of Shakespeare's Hamlet, taking place in the castle grounds this evening, young people can design and decorate their own Yorik, the famous skull which features in this play, one of Shakespeare's best loved works. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
80p per child, free entry to Tower Two, Rochester Castle

15 AUGUST WIND IN THE WILLOWS AT UPNOR CASTLE
For tickets http://www.boxtreeproductions.co.uk/
Gates open: 5.30pm; Performance starts: 6.30pm
Join Mole as he says 'dang' and 'blast it!', throws down his broom and sets off on an adventure out of his hole. On his journey he meets the effervescent Ratty who shows him the wonders of picnics and messing about on the river, Badger, the wise old sage of the woods and Toad of toad hall, whose exploits cause all manner of mischief and upheaval. When the Otters and Stoats take over Toad Hall it's up to Mole and Ratty, Badger and Toad to retake control. With Inventive staging, original songs and magical storytelling we invite audiences to enjoy this classic tale of adventure, friendship and picnics in Boxtree Production's unique and energetic way!
All seating is unreserved. Please bring your own blankets/low-backed chairs - seating is not provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnics & refreshments. There are no refreshments available on site.

15 AUGUST MAKE YOUR OWN WIND IN THE WILLOWS CHARACTER CRAFTS, 10.30AM TO 3.30PM
Inspired by Boxtree Production's performance of Wind in the Willows, taking place in the castle grounds this evening, young people can design and decorate their own character from the classic story - who will you choose: Ratty, Mole, Badger or the infamous Toad? Children must be accompanied by an adult.
80p per child, plus admission fee, Upnor Castle

30 AUGUST PRIDE & PREJUDICE AT ROCHESTER CASTLE
For tickets http://www.chapterhouse.org/
Gates open: 6.30pm; Performance starts: 7.30pm
Take a step back in time with Chapterhouse Theatre Company to meet Elizabeth Bennet, Jane Austen's most loveable heroine. When Elizabeth meets the rude and abrupt Mr Darcy, she loathes him at first sight. But is there more to him than meets the eye? Brought to life by award winning writer Laura Tuner, this brand-new adaptation celebrates the 200th Anniversary of Jane Austen's death and promises to be the most splendid evening of the summer.
So, join friends and family as you picnic under a beautiful summer sky and lose yourself in this unforgettable love story. After all, it is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune must be in want of a wife.
All seating is unreserved. Please bring your own blankets/low-backed chairs - seating is not provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnics & refreshments. There are no refreshments available on site.

30 AUGUST MAKE YOUR OWN LIZZIE & DARCY CHARACTER CRAFTS IN TOWER TWO 10.30AM TO 3.30PM
Inspired by Chapterhouse Theatre's performance of Pride & Prejudice, taking place in the castle grounds this evening, young people can design and decorate their own character from this classic story - who will you choose: Lizzie or Darcy?
Children must be accompanied by an adult.
80p per child, free entry to Tower Two, Rochester Castle

31 AUGUST PETER PAN AT UPNOR CASTLE
For tickets http://www.chapterhouse.org/
Gates open: 5.30pm; Performance starts: 6.30pm
Chapterhouse Theatre Company are delighted to present an all new production of Peter Pan. Join Wendy, Michael and John Darling on their adventures with Peter, far away on the magical island of Neverland. There they encounter the enchanting mermaids, magical fairies and the cruellest pirate of them all, Captain Hook. Presented by special arrangement with Samuel French and in support of Great Ormond Street Hospital Children's Charity, J.M.Barrie's timeless classic is brought to life in a brand new adaptation by award winning writer Laura Turner, with beautifully designed costumes, music and songs. Join Peter and his friends for what promises to be the most magical evening of the summer. All seating is unreserved. Please bring your own blankets/low-backed chairs - seating is not provided. You are welcome to bring your own picnics & refreshments. There are no refreshments available on site.

31 AUGUST MAKE YOUR OWN PETER PAN CHARACTER CRAFTS IN THE BARRACK BLOCK, 10.30AM TO 3.30PM
Inspired by Chapterhouse Theatre's performance of Peter Pan, written by JM Barrie, taking place in the castle grounds this evening, young people can design and decorate their own character from this classic story - who will you choose: Peter, Wendy, Tinkerbell or Hook?
80p per child, plus admission fee, Upnor Castle

SUMMER HOLIDAYS
Guildhall Museum

Sat 22 July – Sun 3 Sept, 10am-5pm
BATTLE OF MEDWAY TRAIL
Take part in our trail around the museum based on the Battle of Medway exhibition for a chance to win a small prize.
80p per child, free entry to the museum

Sat 22 July – Sun 3 Sept, Tuesdays –Fridays, 10.30am-3.30pm
BATTLE OF MEDWAY FAMILY CRAFTS
Join our hands-on family craft activities & artist sessions based around our 'Journey to Chatham' exhibition, part of the Battle of Medway commemorations featuring Dutch newspaper reports of the Battle and the construction plans for the new fort at Sheerness. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
80p-£2, free entry to the museum.

ROCHESTER CASTLE

Sat 22 July – Sun 3 Sept, 10am-6pm (last admission 5.15pm)
ROCHESTER CASTLE CELEBRATION TRAIL
Take part in our heritage trail around the keep looking for clues to find out why Rochester Castle is celebrating this year for a chance to win a small prize.
80p per child, plus admission fee.

Tuesdays & Thursdays, 10.30am-3.30pm
FAMILY CRAFT ACTIVITIES
Join our hands-on family craft activity to make your own medieval masterpieces. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
80p per child, free entry to Tower Two.

Saturday 12 & Sunday 13 August, 10am to 5pm

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MAKE YOUR OWN MEDIEVAL BRACELET 27 July & 17 Aug
MAKE YOUR OWN JESTER'S HAT 1 Aug & 22 Aug
MAKE YOUR OWN KING OF THE CASTLE CROWN 8 Aug & 31 Aug
MAKE YOUR OWN MINI SIEGE ENGINE 10 Aug & 24 Aug

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Free, normal admission applies to the Keep.

UPNOR CASTLE

Sat 22 July – Sun 3 Sept, 10am-6pm (last admission 5.15pm)
BATTLE OF MEDWAY TRAIL
Take part in our trail around the castle looking for clues to find out what happened at Upnor Castle during the Battle of Medway for a chance to win a small prize.
80p per child, plus admission fee.

BATTLE OF MEDWAY FAMILY ACTIVITIES & CRAFTS
Join our family activities based on the Battle of Medway commemorations. Children must be accompanied by an adult.
Free, plus admission fee. These activities are kindly supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund.

MEET A 1667 SOLDIER
Sun 23 July, Fri 4 Aug, Fri 11 Aug, Fri 18 Aug, Fri 25 Aug, Sun 27 Aug, Sat 9 Sept & Sun 10 Sept, 11am, 1pm & 3pm
Local actors from Play On Words Theatre Company are delighted to introduce you to their Georgian soldier, William Webster. Webster was stationed at Upnor Castle in 1787, so join him on a tour around the castle as he explains what life was like here then and at the time of the Battle of Medway in 1667.

PRINT YOUR OWN SHIP'S FLAG OR BAG
with artist Christina Lamb Mon 24 July, 10.30am-3.30pm
Join our drop-in artist-led session to design your own Battle of Medway print for a flag or tote bag. All the print screens are inspired by the Guildhall Museum's collection.
Please note that this is a change to the foam stamp activity previously advertised.

MAKE YOUR OWN ROYAL CHARLES SHIP
Wed 26 July, 10.30am-3.30pm
Join our hands-on family craft activity to make your own flagship – remember to keep it safe from the Dutch!

KNITTING THE BATTLE OF MEDWAY
with artist Dan Chilcott Fri 28 July, 10am-12noon
Join artist Dan Chilcott to knit your own Battle of Medway inspired design, linked to a special Battle of Medway artwork which will be display at Upnor Castle, Eastgate House and the Rochester Hub this summer.

DESIGN YOUR OWN BADGE OR MAGNET
with artist Christina Lamb 31 July, 10.30am-3.30pm
Join our drop-in artist-led session to design your own Battle of Medway badge or magnet. All the original stamps are inspired by the Guildhall Museum's collection.

DECORATE A CANNONBALL
Wed 2 Aug, 10.30am -3.30pm
Join our hands-on family craft activity to decorate your own cannonball – get ready to fire it at the Dutch!

PAINTING THE BATTLE OF MEDWAY
with artist Kevin Clarkson Mon 21 Aug & Wed 30 Aug, 10.30am-3.30pm
Local artist Kevin Clarkson meticulously researched the Battle of Medway to create several new paintings of the events at Upnor in 1667 for our anniversary commemorations this year. Join Kevin on site to draw your own Battle of Medway masterpiece.

BATTLE OF MEDWAY MINI DRAMA SCHOOL
Wed 23 Aug - Thur 24 Aug, 10am -3.30pm
Play on Words presents an amazing opportunity for budding stars of the stage to work with professional actors in a unique venue this Summer Holiday. Over two days you will learn all about creating and acting in a play, and the Mini Drama School will end with a performance for family and friends.
The two-day school costs £40. To book your place, contact info@playonwordstheatre.com or 07971512209

DRAW A MINI MASTERPIECE
Fri 1 Sept, 10.30am -3.30pm
Join our hands-on family craft activity to draw your own mini masterpiece inspired by the Battle of Medway.

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CANNES: Destination where Shepway District Council will champion the controversial Otterpool Park garden town

Cannes trip for team promoting controversial garden town plan

Tom Pyman gauges reaction as the taxpayer is set to fund a visit to a housing conference in France

CAMPAIGNERS opposed to the development of a huge garden town say they are "dismayed and horrified" as council bosses plan to promote the controversial project on a taxpayer-funded trip to the French Riviera.

Chiefs at a Shepway District Council cabinet meeting this week endorsed the visit to an international property event across the Channel, renowned as much for its lavish parties as its housing conferences.

Representatives from the local authority - understood to be one councillor and one officer - are planning to attend MIPIM in Cannes in March to bang the drum for the Otterpool Park development, which is set to deliver up to 12,000 homes in the district.

The plans, for land close to Sellindge and Folkestone Racecourse, may see much-needed housing, but campaigners say it will devastate existing countryside and put a huge strain on roads and services.

Now council chiefs hope MIPIM, which pulls in thousands of property experts for "four days of networking, learning and transaction" will help shine a global spolight on its plans.

However, previous attendees have described the conference as a "glorified booze cruise" with some lavish networking events held on luxury yachts, but councils see it as a chance to showcase the best their area has to offer to business chiefs from around the world.

David Plumstead is co-ordinator of Otterpool Newtown Coalition campaign group.

He told us this week: "I'm dismayed and horrified that they are spending all this money doing this promotion.

"What the hell it has got to do with the south of France, I don't know."

The cabinet has defended the trip, however, insisting it is "entirely appropriate for Otterpool Park to be given the international exposure such a project warrants".

A spokesperson told us: "Our aim is to deliver much needed new homes and jobs at Otterpool Park in a garden town setting that will provide for future generations in our district.

"Going to the MIPIM event will give us a unique opportunity to promote Otterpool Park to significant and potential investors in the residential and commercial property markets."

Other local authorities have been slammed for lavish spending at the popular event, with the London Borough of Haringey recently found to have splashed some £44,000 on a visit to MIPIM earlier this year.

Shepway, however, says it has "yet to finalise total costings" but suggests the figure will be some way off that mark.

The spokesperson added: "We are acutely aware of ensuring that we secure value for money from this event.

"Costs will be kept to a minimum as we will be joining with Locate in Kent as it promotes the county to international investor markets.

"Attendance at this event will, we believe, bring major benefits for minimal financial outlay."

The trip comes as the town hall steps up its relationship with the Department for International Trade, with which it has been liaising over Otterpool Park since the start of the year.

A report presented to members this week claims the DIT can help to promote major infrastructure and development projects to an international audience, in the hunt for investment and development partners.

The department is working with the South East Local Enterprise Partnership - which champions economic growth in Kent and Medway - to identify such projects within the area, and initial submissions were sought back in May, when Shepway signalled its interest.

The projects the DIT generally supports are infrastructure or large scale developments that have planning permission and are ready to deliver, however bosses have recognised some projects, such as new garden towns, may need a longer lead in and could benefit from initial promotion at a strategic level before the details of specific investment or development opportunities are decided upon.

Therefore, the report claims, the DIT board intends to work with Shepway as a pilot on a new approach to promote garden towns and other similar scale projects that are at an early stage.

The government has asked the council to provide some further details on Otterpool Park, with a view to agreeing a package of measures for promotion of the project, including coverage on the DIT's website.

The timescales for any activities will all be through further discussion and agreement between the two parties but council chiefs say it would give them the opportunity and advantage of being the first of the garden towns to be actively promoted by government.

While the council is supportive of the project, plans have been met with significant opposition in recent months, as campaigners organised a series of protest marches over concerns it would destroy the Shepway countryside.

However, chiefs behind the project have attempted to allay fears by insisting "it won't be swathes of concrete" and that green space would be at the heart of the development.

Last month, fresh details of the plans were announced as drop-in consultation events were held across Folkestone, Hythe and Romney Marsh.

Mr Plumstead said he interviewed 71 attendees across the five events and reported 61 being against the development.

However, the council insists the response to the plans has largely been more positive and said some members of the public had said in feedback they found the atmosphere at the consultation drop-ins to be "intimidating".

The report added: "A limited number of people objecting to the principle of large scale development attended each event with the stated intention of dominating the proceedings."

Key features proposed for the garden town include a high street, where there would be shops and amenities as well as homes, while green space could be utilised for allotments, food growing areas and sports pitches.

Currently, two secondary schools and seven primary schools are proposed, while there is a heavy emphasis on business, with large investment in broadband infrastructure proposed, as well as an innovation fund to encourage companies to relocate to the area.

Furthermore, conversations are ongoing with Network Rail about upgrading the nearest train station, Westenhanger, as well attempts to extend the high speed line from central London - a proposal included in Kent County Council's submission to the Department for Transport as part of the ongoing consultation into the new south eastern rail franchise, set to take effect next year.

Health care is also at the top of the agenda for project managers, with the aim of introducing a GP practice, primary and secondary care and social care services - particularly relevant given a Folkestone surgery announced last month it is set to close in November.

In terms of a timeline, which bosses admit is "ambitious", the next six months will be spent responding to issues and suggestions while continuing to develop plans, before preparing and submitting a formal planning application to the local authority in the spring next year.

A pre-application consultation will also take place during this period.

By late 2019, chiefs expect an initial decision in principle by the council, which would then mean work could begin in 2020.

Fury in first steps to set up inquiry into scandal

Contaminated blood campaigners snubbed a meeting with government officials over how inquiry should be run

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

A VICTIM of the blood contamination scandal says there is "zero trust" in the Department of Health after campaign groups unanimously refused to accept "a poisoned chalice" meeting with officials.

Prime minister Theresa May last week announced an investigation into how thousands of haemophiliacs and other patients were given blood products infected with hepatitis C and HIV during the 1970s and 1980s, which left around 2,400 people dead.

But a planned meeting with the department was shelved this week after a major backlash.

KoS has campaigned for over two years for justice to finally be served for the thousands affected by the scandal.

It saw the NHS use contaminated blood products sourced, in many cases from prisoners and drug addicts, which were then handed to haemophiliacs who suffer a condition where their blood fails to clot properly.

It has long been claimed by those affected that the Department of Health (DofH) was made aware of possible contamination issues before changes to the way the blood was sourced and administered were made.

As a consequence, campaigners say the inclusion of the department in early discussions as to make up of the inquiry are to be resisted.

Former Labour minister Diana Johnson compared allowing the department to be involved in the probe to "asking South Yorkshire Police to lead an inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster", as she called for the inquiry to be fully independent.

Ms Johnson, MP for Kingston upon Hull North, who has campaigned on the issue for a number of years, said many involved were "dismayed" that the DofH would lead on the establishment of the inquiry and called for another government department to take the lead on the inquiry.

Speaking during an urgent question on the inquiry in the House of Commons on Thursday, she said: "The Department of Health, an implicated party at the heart of so much that has gone wrong over the past 45 years, must have no role in how this inquiry is established.

"It is akin, in my view, to asking South Yorkshire Police to lead an inquiry into the Hillsborough disaster and I regret that the government has not been able to understand that by putting the government in charge at this time immediately undermines their excellent decision to call a public inquiry last week."

Her concern was echoed by shadow public health minister Sharon Hodgson, who said victims had "deeply held suspicions" about the DofH.

She said: "A week ago the House united in agreement to finally facilitate justice for those tragically affected by this scandal but in recent days, as we've heard, events have shown ministers to renege on last week's promises and have run roughshod over the affected community."

Steve Dymond, 61, from Broadstairs, who contracted hepatitis C, which can cause major damage to the liver, echoed those concerns.

He said: "Why would victims and their families embark on yet another consultation process, when previous exercises have been nothing less than foregone conclusions and perversely twisted questions?

"The DofH should play no role in the setting up of an inquiry.

"The repeated claims of the junior minister that she was seeking to be thorough and transparent rang hollow after all the slaps in the face victims and their families of this scandal have received down the years from the DofH and its contempt for haemophiliacs devastated by this scandal.

"The default setting of the DofH as a wolf in sheep's clothing has been exposed so often in the past that there is zero trust in it, its ministers and officials.

"The fact this inquiry has been announced so reluctantly in the light of allegations of a criminal cover up on an industrial scale, makes it vital that every step towards what will be a very complex process, is undertaken independently by a body which has the confidence of victims and their families. The DofH is manifestly unfit for purpose to meet these criteria."

Health minister Jackie Doyle-Price said the government was "very much in listening mode" and insisted that no decisions had been made so far on who would lead the probe.

She said the government wanted to get on with the inquiry but it was committed to having "good, effective dialogue" to ensure confidence in the process.

She said: "The secretary of state called this meeting because we want to hear directly from the victims over what they want from this inquiry.

"We are very much in listening mode.

"A decision has not yet been taken about which department will run it, but ultimately, as a minister, I am accountable to parliament for what happens in the DofH for those areas which are under my responsibility, and I want to be leading from the front and having those discussions."

Downing Street insisted the inquiry would be independent and concerned parties would be asked whether they wanted a judge-led inquiry or a Hillsborough-style panel.

The prime minister's official spokesman: "This is going to be an independent inquiry.

"Officials from the Department of Health and the Cabinet Office have offered to meet people affected to discuss the issues and understand their preferences."

But Mr Dymond says if the government wants to ensure the inquiry starts as it means to go on, the DofH needs to not be involved.

He added: "That the DofH is still attempting to hijack and derail this process is all too miserably predictable. Even by their own low standards, the DofH have surprised us by their early demonstration of their contempt for this inquiry.

"The truth must out, but that will require vigilance and public scrutiny every step of the way to prevent the DofH trampling all over the surviving victims and the memories of the 2,400 dead haemophiliacs.

"If the DofH are so fanatically determined to get their grubby mitts on the inquiry and suffocate it then clearly there is much they were or are responsible for they wish to conceal.

"The inquiry will be a veritable journey into the very heart of darkness if given the means to investigate deeply and thoroughly."

• ***You can read KoS' extensive series of articles on the blood contamination scandal by accessing our back issues, free, online. Simply visit www.kentnews.co.uk and click on the e-editions link.***

VICTIM: Steve Dymond says campaigners have no faith in the Department of Health's involvement in the inquiry

COMMONS: The issue was discussed again this week

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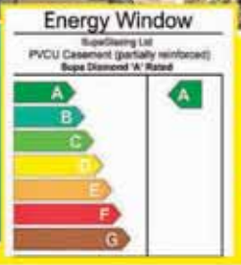

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Garden city to help ease the strain on local NHS services

An innovative approach is being taken by those behind the Ebbsfleet Garden City project with the fitness of those living there being tracked as well as plans to ensure streets are lined with fruit trees to encourage healthy eating habits

By Tom Pyman
Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

A SCHEME to monitor the fitness levels of dozens of Ebbsfleet Garden City residents could help reduce the strain on health services in north Kent, bosses claim.

The nearby Darent Valley Hospital in Dartford was almost pushed to breaking point last winter as patients were desperately urged to stay away from its A&E department if possible, after experiencing an average of 70 more people a day using its services than the previous year.

However, bosses at the Ebbsfleet development - set to deliver up to 15,000 homes - are taking a proactive approach to encourage active living in the city, after it was given 'healthy new town' status by the NHS last year.

As part of the project, up to 100 residents - from between the ages of 23 and 74 - will wear Fitbits - wrist-worn fitness monitors - to track their activity over a 12-month period.

The information will be recorded throughout the year to capture and understand which locations and routes are preferred for walking, cycling and running in new and existing communities.

Kevin McGeough is the director of the Ebbsfleet Garden City Healthy New Town programme.

He told KoS: "We've got a real opportunity here to learn lessons about how we create healthy new communities from the outset and make sure it's a really modern, fabulous place that includes everybody.

"This particular programme is sponsored by the NHS because they see if you start investing time in creating communities from the beginning you can make long term savings to the health service.

"So instead of just building more hospitals and GP surgeries, let's actually work with people from the beginning and try to encourage them to be healthier and live happier lives.

"If we start giving people information about their own health, they can take control themselves, again without relying on hospitals or GP services.

"In some experiments previously where people have been given Fitbits, they tend to be active for about two months and then they get bored and drop off, so in this initiative we give them the monitoring device but also try to set up networks of support within the north Kent area and show people that getting fit can be fun."

Volunteers are encouraged to work together to improve their health and were given a taste of activities they can enjoy, and services they can benefit from, at a launch event at Ebbsfleet United Football Club on Thursday.

The garden city is one of 10 demonstrator sites in NHS England's programme and, as the biggest, is asking to take the lead in order to help address identified health issues which include obesity and adult diabetes.

Earlier this week, figures revealed that one in five children in Kent begin primary school overweight, and then one in three end primary school obese.

Furthermore, nearly 65 per cent of people aged over 16 in the county are described as being overweight or obese - more than 800,000 people.

Kent County Council's director of public health, Andrew Scott-Clark, said: "To maintain a healthy weight and lifestyle, we all need to both eat well and move more.

"Even making small changes can help families to live healthier and longer lives."

Mr McGeough added: "There are very high incidences of diabetes and childhood obesity here and we want to address that, so it's about getting the whole family active.

"We've also got an initiative called Edible Ebbsfleet and that's about having fruit and vegetables on all the streets.

"If we're going to have hedges, let's have fruit hedges, if we're going to have trees, let's have fruit trees.

"At the minute the statistics show children are not eating their five a day so let's make it easy and have it on the streets where they can see it every day.

"For every problem we see we just have to find a solution.

As well as tracking their fitness progress, the volunteers will also be tracked geographically using GPS, so that bosses can better understand where people are walking, cycling and running in order to inform future investment and priorities for new infrastructure as the development expands.

As a result, it means the residents will be shaping the future design of the city, to ensure it benefits as wide a range of people as possible.

As the north Kent population soars, ensuring the relevant infrastructure and support is in place is vital, and Dartford Borough Council this week took a firm stand against the government, urging ministers to provide a fair

FUTURE: The Ebbsfleet Garden City will eventually provide some 15,000 homes but will be ensuring those who live there have the opportunity to stay fit and healthy with a host of initiatives

funding settlement for health services amid fears doctors and nurses are being "let down" by a lack of support.

Dartford, Gravesham and Swanley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) announced a £17m deficit earlier this year, and admitted the financial woes are expected to continue - forecasting a £42m hole by 2020/21.

Bosses at the CCG, which is responsible for organising public health services in the towns, have said there has been a significant increase in the demand for services, with the local population growing by around two per cent per annum.

Meanwhile, funding is only growing by one per cent per year, as the CCG found some £13m in efficiency savings to try and balance the books.

It comes after Susan Acott, the chief executive of Dartford and Gravesham NHS Trust, which runs Darent

Continued on page 16

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Continued from page 15

Valley Hospital, admitted the current uncertainty around Brexit was having an adverse effect on recruitment of both EU and non-EU staff.

She added that around 300 EU nationals currently employed at the hospital were "now worried about what was planned for the future".

Now the council has unanimously backed a motion, demanding a fair settlement, and calling on health secretary Jeremy Hunt to ensure local health services can meet the demands of a growing population.

In the motion, which was amended, but passed, at a council meeting on Monday, opposition leader Jonathon Hawkes says "dedicated healthcare professionals working at Darent Valley Hospital are being let down by the current inadequate funding settlement and this could have an impact on the care they are able to deliver".

Conservative colleagues, however, took exception to claims the public sector pay freeze introduced in 2010 is contributing to local recruitment troubles, so Cllr Hawkes told us he removed that paragraph from the proposal.

The council agreed to "endorse and fully support the letter sent by the Policy Overview Committee to the chief executive of NHS England highlighting the growing gap in funding to the CCG" and "support demands for a fair funding settlement for the CCG and calls on the secretary of state for health to ensure that local health services in Dartford are adequately funded and resourced to provide care to Dartford's growing population".

HEALTHY: Susan Butterfill, 65, will use a Fitbit as one of the volunteers to have their health tracked.

Cllr Hawkes told KoS after the meeting: "My primary objective was to get an agreed position for the council in terms of a funding settlement.

"It's not just numbers on a spreadsheet, this is having a real impact on patient care.

"It would be an issue for any town that's not keeping pace with population growth, but we have the Ebbsfleet Garden City and a lot of new homes being built so it's a really acute issue.

"People are not against houses being built, but what they are concerned about is whether we have the necessary infrastructure to cope.

"The job of the local authority is to lobby and put pressure on those who hold the purse strings.

"We are advocates for local people and that's exactly what we're doing by announcing this position - council chambers are places for debate on national issues.

"The power is with the government, and not with us, but it's absolutely right we make a stand and confront them on this."

Mr McGeough said he recognised the strain being put on Darent Valley and that helping to ease that pressure was at the heart of the the healthy new town project.

"We're going to be delivering services in a completely different way," he said.

"We're planning to create a health hub in the centre of Ebbsfleet where people can choose to go and get their services there but you can't just keep building hospital beds.

"For example, if we make all the houses accessible and flexible, if someone does break their leg they can go home, as opposed to breaking leg and being stuck in hospital because your house isn't suitable for you.

"Let's design all those things out from the beginning."

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Stars of Dr Who praise first female to get role

It has divided the sci-fi series' fanbase, but previous assistants of the Doctor say it's an inspired move by producers

By Chris Murphy
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ONE week on from the decision by producers of hit science fiction TV show Doctor Who to reveal the 13th incarnation of the timelord to be a woman, and the response from fans remains divided.

Last Sunday, the BBC revealed the actress Jodie Whittaker - best known for her role in Broadchurch - will replace Peter Capaldi in an episode to be broadcast this Christmas.

And it sent half of the show's millions of fans worlwide into rapture, and the other half into dismay.

For many years Janet Fielding played the Doctor's assistant - Tegan Jovanka. She appeared in 19 stories across 64 episodes between 1981 and 84 which included the finale of Tom Baker, who lives in Tunbridge Wells, and the arrival of Peter Davidson.

Now running a restoration charity for the West Cliff Hall and youth programme called MotorHouse, in Ramsgate, she took time out of recording yet another Dr Who audio play, which she does several times a year, to speak to KoS about the appointment.

She told us: "People are talking about it, and that's magnificent.

"The other thing is I think she will be fabulous. I think the way has been paved by characters like Missy and the sort of characters with some gender fluidity who have been introduced into the show over the past few years.

"I am a little bit puzzled by all these people who seem to be frightened of a bit of change, because isn't that the whole point about science fiction?

"Personally, I thought it was about imagining the future and what the future would look like - the future isn't always going to be male, is it?

"The future is where anything can happen, and something like this opens up so many more possibilities.

"She is certainly not the first female timelord. Susan, the Doctor's granddaughter would have been one and Lalla Ward played a timelord too."

She was Romana during two seasons of the show in the early 80s - during which she wed the then-Doctor actor, Tom Baker, in a shortlived 18 month marriage.

STAR: Jodie Whittaker will take over the iconic role in an episode to be aired this Christmas

OFF: Peter Capaldi is all set to bow out of the hit show

Added Ms Fielding: "Jodie has joined the family, and it is a family. Because the show is so popular and there are conventions and things. I stay in contact with lots of people from the show across its 54 years and sure Jodie will be there too. It's terrific."

Actress Louise Jameson, perhaps best known for her roles in EastEnders and Bergerac, was Leela in 1977 and 78, covering nine stories in 40 episodes opposite Tom Baker.

She said: "I am thrilled Jodie is the new Doctor. It is about time we had a woman in the role.

"It is brilliant - there has been such a huge tidal wave of better jobs coming up for women. There has been a great deal of campaigning done in the past three or four years from loads of Equity members. And that's men and women saying it just isn't fair.

"So to have someone as iconic as the Doctor becoming female is utterly wonderful.

"And Jodie is so good. She is so popular and quirky and subtle - I utterly adore her work.

"I think they will go back to a male Doctor after Jodie but let's see what she does. She might be there, like Tom Baker, for nearly a decade.

"It is an incredibly hard job because you are virtually doing two jobs.

"You are taking on the acting job and then also taking on the celebrity of being the Doctor and all the events and functions that go along with that. It is very demanding on the circuit and your fame shoots through the stratosphere. It is a very tough call I think to do it for any real length of time.

"Mind you, I am not sure you could ever get bored with being the Doctor, I don't think that's possible. It is all so unpredictable. With the right team it is a joyous job and it could go on for years."

Commenting on her appointment in the role, Jodie Whittaker said: "I want to tell the fans not to be scared of my gender. This is a really exciting time and Doctor Who represents everything that is exciting about change. The fans have lived through so many changes, and this is only a new, different one, not a fearful one."

Ironically, she plays a bogus doctor in a BBC drama, Trust Me, to be aired later this summer - prior to her taking over as the timelord.

She'll replace Peter Capaldi, previously best known as the foul-mouthed Malcolm Tucker on the satirical drama the Thick Of It. He said of his replacement: "Anyone who has seen Jodie Whittaker's work will know that she is a wonderful actress of great individuality and charm.

"She has, above all, the huge heart to play this most special part. She's going to be a fantastic Doctor."

Former editor of the Dr Who magazine Tom Spilsbury, from Tunbridge Wells, said: "I was a little surprised by this move.

"There had been so much speculation around who the next Doctor might be, and that included a lot of women this time around.

"We have already seen timelords can change gender - we saw The Master recast as a woman for the last few years, so yeah, why not.

"You can focus too much on the fact it is 'a woman', rather than look at the particular woman they've got. As ever, you want a great actor, and I think Jodie Whittaker is a great performer and will do splendid stuff, I am sure.

"Now we have to wait to see how she is going to do it. There is certainly going to be a curiosity factor. Hopefully the audience will like what they see.

"It is going to be interesting to see how she conveys the idea that she is this 2,000 year old character, and make us believe she has had all these previous lifetimes. This is quite a challenge for an actor, but I am sure she has the chops to do it

"The purists will be upset to a certain extent. I think some people will be a bit sexist. The challenge now is to win them over and that has been the challenge right back to the first time they recast it. I think the position is open to all walks of life. You could even had a male sidekick, but it might be good to see two women in the lead roles. The programme needs to keep refreshing itself."

Tom Baker did not wish to make a comment when contacted by KoS.

But the Equal Opportunities Commission said: "We welcome this move as excellent news and wish Jodie every success. It shows great courage and is to be congratulated."

Ever wondered just what happens to all that material we now recycle?

The Green Party's **Martin Whybrow** takes a trip to one of the county's major recycling plants to get a first hand look at the scale of the operation to take our old rubbish and turn it into something useful

THERE'S good and bad news about the recycling of our electrical items.

On the upside, they are recycled more or less in their entirety, so nothing goes to landfill.

On the downside, only about a third of the small household electrical items that could be recycled go this route.

Here's one other issue to ponder. Of the items that are recycled, it is estimated that around one quarter are still in working order or could be readily repaired.

To understand what's going on and what communities might do to improve matters, a visit to SWEEEP Kuusakoski's facility is fascinating.

It is on an industrial estate in Sittingbourne and handles all of Kent's electrical goods recycling and much of the south east's as a whole, constituting around 25 per cent of the country's volumes, alongside three similar plants operated by other companies.

If an electrical item reaches SWEEEP Kuusakoski then 98 per cent is recycled, with the tiny amount left going to a waste to energy plant.

Typically, a large portion of the items come from 'the dump', operated by Kent County Council (KCC) but sending the items for recycling by SWEEEP Kuusakoski doesn't cost the taxpayer anything.

In many ways, the business model behind electrical goods recycling is as interesting as the logistics.

SWEEEP Kuusakoski's income stems from two main sources.

First, there is the Waste Electrical and Electronic Equipment (WEEE) Directive (hence the name, SWEEEP) by which manufacturers pay for the eventual end of life of their goods.

A set of intermediary companies handle the workings of the WEEE system, collecting money from the manufacturers and verifying the volumes taken in by regulated entities such as SWEEEP Kuusakoski.

The second income stream is from the resale price of recycled materials. Most valuable are the commodities such as gold, silver and copper but there's also value in plastic and some other by-products of the recycling process.

SITE: The SWEEEP Kuusakoski complex on an industrial site in Sittingbourne

Commodity prices can clearly vary markedly over time and this dictates what SWEEEP Kuusakoski charges to its commercial customers for handling their items.

Like most recycling plants, the operation is a mix of the highly manual and highly automated.

The lorries come into the facility and tip their loads. Average volumes are eight to ten tonnes per hour - a Transit truck load is equivalent to about one ton, by way of comparison.

This equates to around 40,000 tonnes per year. At present, the site is mostly working 24 hours a day, six days a week, with 170 staff across three shifts.

There is plenty of room to scale if more tonnage can be captured, says

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commercial manager, Justin Greenaway.

The emptied loads are collected in impressive electrical goods mountains, with microwaves, laptops, TVs, vacuum cleaners and many other items piled high.

There is initial manual sifting on a conveyor belt as the items enter the process.

Each staff member is looking for specific items, some of which are extremely hazardous if not extracted at an early stage.

Batteries, particular of the soft lithium type, are a problem as they are highly combustible so can cause fires in the plant further down the line.

Gas canisters are another hazard, not always as easy to spot as might be expected.

A large rapidly rotating drum then starts to break up the items into their constituent parts, with the smashing together of everything fairly rapidly achieving this aim.

The rest of the processes are a mix of mechanical sifting on size, on material (using magnets and eddy currents plus a sophisticated scanner that identifies and separates the valuable pieces of circuit boards, with their relatively high commodities content) and manual sorting.

The company was set up in 2007 as SWEEEP and slightly under two-thirds is now in Finnish hands, having been acquired by Kuusakoski, a large, long-established, family-run company that was seeking to expand in the UK.

The facility is part of a complicated ecosystem, with many of its materials going on to other companies inside and outside the UK for further processing.

This includes even the smallest dust-like residue that is further mined for commodities at another Kent-based company, near Aylesford.

Many items go for smelting to Japan, Sweden, Canada and elsewhere, including the pieces of circuit boards, to extract the commodities.

Much of the plastic ends up in China, either directly from SWEEEP Kuusakoski or via another process that turns it into pellets.

This might not sound environmentally friendly but nothing is black and white.

First, given the global flow of manufactured goods, China is where much of the demand is for plastic, so that it can be recycled for new items.

Moreover, most of the containers that have brought those manufactured items to the UK then return empty, so they can be used instead to ship the plastic.

The reason pellets rather than the untreated plastic is increasingly attractive for shipping is that Chinese regulations are now strict, so that they will inspect every container and will reject any consignment that is contaminated with other materials.

It is cheap to ship a container load of plastic to China, Mr Greenaway points out, but it is very expensive to ship one back if it has been rejected.

"It is false to think that China is a dumping ground, far from it, they want high quality," he says.

How might Brexit impact the operation? There could be issues attracting staff (around half are UK nationals) but Mr Greenaway believes that the regulations that provide the framework for the industry will remain more or less the same.

The WEEE Directive stemmed from the EU – one of many positive environmentally friendly pieces of EU legislation, Remainers would argue – but it is likely that, even if under a different name, the UK will still participate in this type of system.

The SWEEEP Kuusakoski facility is noisy, with every part in constant motion apart from the occasional planned or unintended down-time.

It is also highly regulated, by the Environment Agency, and all of the other companies that it supplies further down the recycling chain must also be properly accredited.

While it uses a lot of energy, the company ensures that this is from renewables, adding to its green credentials.

How could things be improved? There is the issue of reuse in preference to recycling.

KCC, within its next waste management strategy is looking at how reuse facilities might be introduced to some or all of the HWRCs.

However, some of the sites lack the space for this and, fundamentally, there needs to be a market for the items that are 'rescued'.

It is no good collecting electric toasters, for instance, if no one wants second-hand ones.

KCC staff have visited other councils to see how they encourage reuse and what items are suitable.

It is perfectly valid to argue that we should also be looking at behaviour, that our society consumes too much and disposes of things too readily, but the next best option is to make sure that when something is disposed of, it is done in the most environmentally friendly way.

And this is where SWEEEP Kuusakoski plays its part.

PROCESS: Tonnes of material is processed

BASH: Will your favourite food or drink outlet be on our shortlist?

Time is running out to nominate the county's creme de la creme

The Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards want to hear your top choices to be honoured this year

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

THERE are just days left to cast your votes for this year's prestigious Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards.

Nominations for the awards which champion and showcase the very best of the county's food and drink industry, closes on Monday, August 7, and this year's event is lining up to be the best yet.

Launched in 2013, the awards bring together Kent's finest local producers and suppliers, small farming businesses, chefs, restaurants, pubs and hoteliers - all of whom share a passion for the countryside and the future of our local environment.

The companies included are all nominated by readers of Kent on Sunday and our sister title, Kent Life magazine, before a handpicked panel of high-profile judges, who all live and work in the county, will visit and interview finalists to determine a worthy winner in each category.

The judging panel are looking for quality over quantity, focusing on good comments rather than simply the number of nominations received.

The finalists will be invited to the glitzy awards ceremony at the Ashford International Hotel on October 16, where they will indulge in a drinks reception and three-course meal before the winners are announced.

Ahead of our fifth Kent Life and Kent on Sunday Food & Drink Awards, we spoke to our 12 judges about what they're looking for from nominees over the coming weeks.

Philip Orrell is group PR and media manager for the Hadlow Group and will be chewing over the Product/Producer of the Year category.

He said: "I want to be able to get a sense and taste of the care, hard work and the sheer love of flavour that has gone into that product.

"Something that combines both a strong sense of place and identity – a love for the fantastic abundance of delicious natural ingredients that Kent provides – and a bit of style, fun and originality along the way."

Customer service is also befitting of recongition at the awards, and will be judged this year by local estate agent Matthew Ryde.

"However good your shop or restaurant looks, however good the produce or clever your website is, however broad-reaching your social media, people remember how you make them feel," he said.

"Customer service is at the core of success and companies and people who remember that and place it at the core of their business deserve recognition."

Under so much pressure from heav-

yweight chains, we feel it's especially important to recognise the contributions of independent food and drink retailers.

They will be judged this year by Anna Golding of K Sports: "I'm looking for presentation and variety of products, friendliness and approachability of staff, a relaxed, non-pressurised environment, good product knowledge and affordability."

One of the greatest assets of the industry, of course, is the fact it is constantly changing and evolving, so we also want to nod to those who have arrived on the scene over the last 12 months.

Karen Giles runs Kent's first introductions agency and will be judging the Newcomer of the Year award.

She said: "I want to see a business or individual bringing something a bit different to Kent's food and drink scene, combined with attention to cleanliness and presentation, great customer relations and value for money. Fresh, local produce is imperative."

Charles Tassell is one of the county's most renowned farmers, and will be casting his eye over the best markets around.

"All of the Kent farmers' markets are wonderful places to get fresh and seasonal products from people who care about what they produce and sell," he said.

"The awards are an opportunity to highlight three of the best each year."

There's also an award for Family Dining, assessed this year by Rachel Holweger, director of income generation for the Ellenor hospice.

She said: "I love eating out and while my daughters are now older, I do remember how important it was to find places to eat that were family friendly; warm and welcoming but at the same time offering a great service with delicious food at reasonable prices.

"There is often a misconception that because you have children with you that you just have to have chips.

"Variety of menu, flexible service, comfortable surroundings and delicious food would be on my list."

Dr Sophie Shotter, meanwhile, who runs Illuminate Skin Clinic in West Malling, will be looking at the finest independent cafes and tea rooms of the year.

"I'm going to be judging the all-round experience – decor, service, food and drink," she said.

"I'm looking for delicious rich coffee, a beautiful tea selection, home-made, delicious scones and cakes and use of as many local ingredients as possible."

Sarah Sturt is the editor of our sister title, Kent Life, and will be casting her eye over the Food & Drink Hero of the Year award.

Explaining what exactly makes a hero, she said: "An exceptional individual who has made a real difference to the Kent food and drink scene and beyond, someone who has helped put The Garden of England on the map as an exemplar of excellence and quality in this competitive arena."

Farm Shop of the Year is judged this year by Simon Cannell, managing director of Margate's artisan bakery, The Baker's Bicycle.

He said: "The key to a successful farm shop is creating an interesting environment to shop and one which promotes great food.

"The range should be a wide, varied selection of foods from across Kent and beyond, with a focus on quality, which is then merchandised well.

"I'm a great believer in providing the consumer with as much information as possible about how and where their food is made."

Kent of course boasts some of the very finest restaurants, and the cream of the crop in 2017 will be decided by accountant Victoria Pearson.

"I will be looking for good, wholesome food with a friendly atmosphere and value for money - and that magic ingredient, star quality," she said.

Fine art auctioneer and valuer Tony Pratt will judge the county's best chef, and says he is looking for "a talented individual who can demonstrate their own flair and expertise to produce high-quality dishes, showcasing locally produced and seasonal food".

Finally, public relations consultant Richard Harvey is responsible for the Pub of the Year category and is searching for "a pub that provides a great range of well-kept beers and wines, an excellent food offering, a warm atmosphere, and a real commitment to supporting its community and local producers".

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WINNERS: Last year's honoured entries picking up their awards at a glitzy bash at the Ashford International Hotel

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Perfect place for perfect business

There has never been a better time to relocate to the county of opportunity

By Tom Pyman
Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

AS London becomes ever busier and more overcrowded, businesses are instead turning their attention just outside the capital, and flocking in their droves towards Kent.

The high speed rail network means bosses can travel between the county and the city within minutes, and that connectivity has helped spark a huge surge in interest in firms wanting to relocate.

Naturally, with close links to the continent as well, international companies are also considering Kent to be something of a developing business hub.

After pharmaceutical giant, Pfizer, scaled back its operation in Sandwich in 2012, business chiefs turned the huge site into Discovery Park - frequently championed by local authorities as a global leader for science and enterprise with world class laboratory and exceptional office space.

The park recently celebrated five years of success, as it continues to attract firms with its Enterprise Zone status, meaning companies can access a range of benefits – from superfast broadband and funding advice to streamlined planning.

Another zone is set to be established in the north of the county - comprising the Ebbsfleet Garden City, Kent Medical Campus near Maidstone, and Rochester Airport Technology Park in Medway.

Development is already taking shape and will welcome its first business occupiers next year.

All over the county, however, organisations such as the South East Local Enterprise Partnership and Locate in Kent work with both Kent County Council and Medway Council to champion the benefits of setting up camp here, rather than in the capital, or any of the other surrounding counties.

With over 1.78 million residents, Kent has the largest population of all the English counties, with a workforce approaching 895,000 and 14,000 students graduating in the county every year, which bosses say makes Kent a highly attractive business base for companies already situated here or those looking to re-locate to the county.

GROWTH: With a significant work force and plenty of opportunities, the county is proving a popular draw

The growth has been tangible, as figures from Companies House and the Office for National Statistics demonstrates the number of businesses registered in the county has grown by 25 per cent over the past five years to more than 100,000 for the first time.

And while controversial in some areas of Kent, the proposed development of infrastructure projects such as the upgrading of key roads and junctions, and the construction of the Lower Thames Crossing east of Gravesend is set to open doors to new business opportunities across the county, with the government pledging to support local businesses until the tunnel is open to traffic in 2025.

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Support to set up on your own

Breaking free from the chains and establishing your own business is increasingly popular, with a host of professional organisations able to offer expert advice. Here's a simple guide to the basics

By Tom Pyman
Tom.Pyman@archant.co.uk

DESPITE perilous financial waters in recent years, there has been a surge in the number of people becoming self-employed in the county.

Business chiefs say the knock-on effects of this are significant, as it creates a need for support from solicitors, accountants, employment experts and other professional services.

There are unquestionably risks when making the decision to go solo, but more and more appear to be looking to set up businesses as sole traders.

This means entrepreneurs are personally responsible for any losses their business makes but equally they can keep all the business' profits after tax has been paid.

There are also certain rules on running and naming the business which must be followed.

To set up as a sole trader, entrepreneurs need to register for self assessment and file a tax return every year.

They also need to keep records of the business's sales and expenses, send a self assessment tax return every year, pay income tax on profits and Class 2 and Class 4 National Insurance [HMRC's calculator can help budget for this] and apply for a National Insurance number if they're moving to the UK to set up a business.

Business owners must also register for VAT if their turnover is over £85,000.

This can be done voluntarily if it suits the business, for example if the company sells to other VAT-registered businesses and wants to reclaim the VAT.

Those working in the construction industry as a subcontractor or contractor need to register with HMRC for the Construction Industry Scheme (CIS).

In terms of naming the business, government guidelines say entrepreneurs can trade under their own name, or another - this doesn't need to be registered.

However, the owner must include their name and the business name on official paperwork, such as invoices and letters.

DEAL: If setting up, speak to local accountants and law firms who can offer invaluable advice

Sole trader names must not include 'limited', 'Ltd', 'limited liability partnership, 'LLP', 'public limited company' or 'plc', be offensive or be the same as an existing trade mark.

The government says that the business name also can't contain a 'sensitive' word or expression, or suggest a connection with government or local authorities, unless the necessary permission has been obtained.

With its growing road network and easy access to both London and the continent by rail, as well as increased support for small and medium-sized firms in recent years. Kent is emerging as an ideal location to set up a self-employed business.

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READY?: The RAF's Red Arrows fly back in next month as star guests of the South East Airshow - part of Herne Bay's month-long festival

Festival back with a bang as Bay pulls out all the stops

Oakie Britcher takes a look at BayFest, as seaside town lines up summer of fun

THE Herne Bay Festival returns in style next month - with a new name and a community-run event now stretching throughout the month of August and incorporating the hugely popular annual airshow.

As part of a shake-up of Canterbury's coastal town festivals, there have been some significant changes, with neighbouring Whitstable seeing its previous 10-day event shrunk down to just three - running across the weekend - and on a dramatically reduced scale.

The Herne Bay Festival looked destined to be scrapped altogether, but now local community group BayPromo has stepped in to spearhead a collaborative event.

A spokesman for the event explained: "Now known as BayFest, the event which has previously been run by an events management company is now being run by the community, for the community.

"A number of local organisations including Bay Promo Team, Herne Bay Town Partners and many more have come together to bring a festival spanning the whole month of August and featuring the now world famous South East Airshow, Herne Bay Rocks, The Herne Bay Carnival, Classic Car Show, concerts, fireworks, concerts, art exhibitions and much more throughout the month."

The South East Airshow last year pulled in around 80,000 people to the seaside town and has already confirmed the Red Arrows will be part of the line-up.

The Red Arrows will join the Eurofighter and Battle of Britain Memorial Flight for the third successive year, as the show takes place on August 19.

In a bid to avoid the traffic jams of years gone by, visitors are urged to take public transport to the one-day show.

The following day, August 20, an array of classic cars will line the seafront, dating back from 1900 to the present day, along with a host of live performances and a retro market.

The two key events sit within BayFest itself which starts on August 5 and runs until August 28.

It features everything from sandcastle competitions to a model boat regatta and crab-catching competitions, plus a host of live music events throughout the month.

There are also art exhibitions running across the town, including the Herne Bay Cartoon Festival on the town's pier on August 6.

There are also craft workshops and a host of other creative sessions to fire the imagination.

August 12 sees the town's annual carnival snake its way through the town. It reaches a dramatic climax in the final weekend with a spectacular fireworks display at the Neptune's Arm on August 26.

And if that wasn't enough, Doctor Who fans will be able to get up close and personal with the Herne Bay Tardis on August 19.

Featuring a pop-up musuem devoted to Anthony Coburn, the writer of the first episodes of the sci-fi hit, who lived in the town, he also created the concept of the Tardis.

Later this year, the full-size replica Tardis will be auctioned with all proceeds of the sale going to the BBC Children in Need charity.

For details on the festival, visit the website www.hernebayfestival.com.

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Women Seeking

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CATHY, 54yr old widow, I'm kind and warm hearted and hoping you will call me. Looks unimportant must have GSOH. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427653**

KATIE 35yrs, slender well educated brunette seeks no strings mutual pleasure with gent 40+ Must be discreet, married or single. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3002 Box 419673**

ATTRACTIVE lady, 57yrs, great sense of humour, now looking for good times and good memories. Hoping to meet gent any age. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427883**

JANE, young 41, very broadminded seeks chap any age for discreet no strings fun, any age, no time wasters ACA. **Tel: No: 0906 515 3010 Box: 409715**

GEMMA, 25yrs, green eyed brunette lady, loves to read raunchy books so has a huge imagination, hoping to expand upon it in real life. Call me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427881**

SOPHIA young 40yrs, married but bored, seeks discreet adult fun, any area, all calls answered. **Tel: 0906 515 3018 Box: 413399**

ATTRACTIVE lonely widow, mid 70s seeking gent for friendship. Pls call or text. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427879**

EMILY, mature well educated lady, blonde and smart and broadminded seeks gent any age for no strings fun. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3022 Box 421375**

STUNNINGLY attractive black lady, 50s, with blissful imagination, you have to call to hear what's on offer, you won't be sorry!! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427877**

TAMIKA, mature black beauty, hourglass figure and open minded. Pls call if you are discreet, broad minded and nice. I can travel and accommodate. ACA. **Tel: 0906 515 3006 Box 422365**

CULTURED lady with wicked sense of humour, late 60s seeking humorous man for purposeful relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427875**

SAMANTHA, 35yrs, attractive brunette with own business, seeks adventurous gent for casual relationship. **Tel: 0906 515 3034 Box 425979**

ATTRACTIVE lady, 51yrs, loves the countryside, walking, fun times. WLTM a genuine man for romance, relationship. Call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427873**

HARRIET! 42yrs, blue eyed brunette with long lets and decent curves! Looking for a cheeky adventurous man for fun only. I live alone so can accommodate and can travel. Discretion assured. ACA. Give me a try. **Tel: 0906 515 3030 Box 426205**

CARMEL, open minded naughty lady seeks a broad minded strict man to unleash her wilder side. Age/looks unimportant but no time wasters please. **Tel: 0906 515 3042 Box 426851**

SONIA, mature lady, pretty and feminine with fair hair. Loves to socialise, walking, car boot sales and more. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427647**

CAROLINE, 42yrs, well educated, sophisticated "some call me posh" married lady, looking for no strings midweek liaisons. **Tel: 0906 515 3026 Box 427533**

PAMELA early 70s with softly rounded body! If you are a tender male with passion then call or text me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427635**

RACHAEL, 42yrs, naughty girl who needs lots of pleasure. Call me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427871**

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PIA, Asian lady, 57yrs, very caring and a little subservient and quiet. I am a good cook and loyal friend. Pls text me if you are kind man 55+ **Text Only. Mailbox 4013378**

MICHELLE, 28yrs blue eyed blonde with busty figure. I'm very mature for my age and hope to meet a man to care for. I'm willing to please. Call or text me and I will get straight back to you. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427649**

NATALIA, black beauty! I am late 50s but still fit with a good figure and lovely skin and eyes. I would like to meet a nice white gentleman, older than myself for chats, maybe more. **Text Only. Mailbox 4107799**

MARGARET is in her 60s, she's young looking, blue-eyed blonde, kind, loving with lots of qualities. Seeking mature gent for mutual life's pleasures. Please call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427493**

JULIE, 68yrs but very fit and young looking. Married to an older gent so hoping to meet someone much much younger. Text Me. **Text Only: 4193435**

TRUDY, 70 something lady seeks gent. I'm broadminded and will respond to all calls. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427471**

KAREN, late 50's seeking discreet gent any age/area for daytime meetings. **Text Only. Box: 4194757**

JANET, late 40's divorcee, own home and car looking to spice up my life with some fun. Discreet men only please, I'm not ready for a full on relationship, casual chats. **Text Only. Box: 4189331**

JASMINE, petite Black lady 51yrs, varied interests. Seeking white man for relationship. Looks unimportant. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427657**

FELICITY, "my friends call me posh" I'm not really. Call me to see. I'm 58yrs, curvy, blonde extensions and very good for my age. ACA. **Text Only. Box: 4043583**

MATURE lady, slim and youthful, divorcee, loves laughter, life and everything. WLTM gent for continued fun and passion. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427655**

GENTS, please call me if you are looking to meet a kind sincere lady for nights at the theatre, socialising etc. You can call or text me. I promise to reply, I'm very genuine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426345**

JANE 55yrs romantic homely lady, hoping to meet a man for outings, to cook and care for. You won't be sorry if you call. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427645**

OLIVIA, very mature but young at heart lady seeks nice gent for wining, dining more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427303**

HELLO I'm 47yrs old, I'm a curvy brunette, varied interests with GSOH, hard working and solvent. WLTM gent taller than me, 5ft3. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427639**

ATTRACTIVE Irish lady, 34yrs seek gent of any age. I'm caring, attractive with lots of offer, call to hear more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427637**

HELLO I am a black lady, 60yrs young with a great personality and lovely looks. Call if you are looking to meet someone like me, or text me. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427585**

DEBBIE, young looking 49yrs, pretty brunette lady with lots to offer. If you are interested in a meeting a lady like me then please call me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427611**

LOCAL man, seeks lady for friendship possibly more, for romantic dates and good times together, hope to hear from you. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426195**

BARRY, 50, 6ft 4ins, well built, divorced gent, looking to date calm and kind lovely lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421195**

HANDSOME male, mid 40s, dark hair, hazel eyes, wishes to meet appropriate female for fun, friendship and perhaps more, please get in touch if interested. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422587**

MALE, 55, looking for no strings attached friendship, with a lady 60-70, any status. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426133**

MALE, 6ft, brown hair and blue eyes, warm and understanding, likes dining out and cosy nights in, lots of fun, friendship and holidays. Looking for a lady over 48. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426057**

EASYGOING male, 49, 6ft, well built, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401**

CARING sociable, GS0H, slim, attractive, married gent, 67, feels discarded and lonely, seeks likewise lady 60+ for trips out, dining etc. **Text only. Mailbox: 5082918**

HELLO, mature gentleman looking for a lady who is caring, likes holidays, karaoke, meals out, country walks and cinema. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425401**

CHRIS, 49yrs honest gent seeks lady 45-55 for socialising, friendship, maybe leading to romance. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425345**

PETER, sincere solvent gent 70s seeks lady to wine dine, foreign travel, all expenses paid. I would love a traveling companion. Genuine advertiser. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425343**

GENUINE gentleman, family minded, kind, generous seeks lady 55-75 for wining, dining and wine and laughter. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425329**

DENTAL practitioner, 44, 6ft, slim, athletic build, thick dark hair, blue eyes, loves sports, seeks slim feminine sporty lady. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425087**

EDWARD, 77, looking for a companion South East area of Kent, for holidays, days out, social events, and lots more. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 423039**

Men Seeking

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MALE 60, 6ft, blue eyes, broad shoulders, size 11 shoes, a real handful! Seeks a fit mature busty woman for fun times. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 6001755**

THANET male, retired, 5ft5, dark hair, smart, OHOC, likes walks, travel in motorhome, looking for a single, attractive lady with similar interests in Thanet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427557**

SOLVENT male, older but young at heart, looking for a young lady to wine and dine and spoil and pamper and in turn to pamper me. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427443**

TALL, lively old boy, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks tactile lady for company and jolly jaunts. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425021**

MALE, 58, slim build, 5ft9, brown eyes, hard working, enjoys fishing and socialising, looking for no stings attached fun. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427173**

HI ladies, looking for either NSA fun or LTR. I am single/work/live in own house. **Text only. Mailbox: 4509325**

LOCAL 70 year old young male, now single, nice appearance and dresser, looking for fun and friendship with a lady, 55-70, possible holidays. Can travel. Please ring. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426897**

LIVELY mature gent, OHAC, near sea in Folkestone, into red wine, garlic and Radio 3, seeks lady companion/lover, 58-68 yo. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 422621**

WELL off man, wanting a young lady for spoiling. I am a sugar daddy looking for a sugar baby. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 427441**

CARING, sociable male, 72, N/S, likes all types of music, walking, meals out, looking for a lady for friendship at first. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426865**

KENT man, retired engineer, solvent, enjoys holidays, meals out, good conversation, WLTM a slim lady, 60-70, with a GSOH, to share these times and hopefully become friends. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426887**

RETIRED, smart, 68 year old, 5ft5, I enjoy eating out, walking, holidays and golf, WLTM a slim, attractive lady, 60-68, for a loving, tender relationship, to enjoy these times with. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 421853**

MALE divorced, 6ft, well built, seeking fun time girl for good times. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 412717**

HARRY 50, ex soldier, 6ft, well built, seeking lady to wine and dine. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 417015**

50YR old divorced white male, passionate, strong, seeking caring lady for romantic, loving relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 418641**

JERRY, 66, brown hair, brown eyes, recently widowed, love to walk my dog, WLTM compatible lady for companionship and to see where things go. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426387**

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SIX foot guy, mature, looking for someone special to spend some quality time with. Please leave me a message I would love to hear from you! **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 420163**

PROFESSIONAL gentleman, 64, widowed, own house, loves holidays abroad, reading, eating out, eating in and shows, WLTM a lady of similar age to share interests and happy times together hopefully leading to lasting relationship. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425787**

MALE, 70s, would like to meet slim lady 60 plus. **Text only. Mailbox: 4505135**

GARETH handsome 40's pilot, strong tall build, seeks daytime discreet passion with lady 30-65. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 414421**

MALCOLM, 60 something gent, own hair and teeth, GSOH, genuine and Kind WLTM sincere lady to wine and dine. Please call. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425335**

PROFESSIONAL gent, 44yrs, tall, attractive and genuine. Seeks genuine feminine lady for genuine romance. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425333**

PIERS, 56yrs, romantic gent WLTM lady to wine, dine, spoil. I'm kind, caring, generous pls call me. Single mums welcome. ACA. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 425331**

NICE looking 55 year old male WLTM sincere lady, any age, for friendship, outings, holidays abroad etc. Love the sun. **Text only. Mailbox: 4922399**

Gay Seeking

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MALE, 50s, likes to cross dress, looking for same for friendship and fun. Has to be discreet. **Text only Replies. Mailbox: 4623598**

JOHN, young at heart 65, bi male, looking for casual fun with likeminded male. Maidstone Kent area. Must be discreet. **Text only replies. Mailbox: 5657306**

GAY guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267**

EASY going guy, 68, likes walks, books, seeks N/S guy for LTR. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 411413**

ROB, bi-curious male, 55, seeks likeminded male, crossdresser/TV. Must be discreet. **Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 426287**

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Visitors set to be made up as Emin's My Bed heads to Turner

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

TRACEY Emin's controversial art piece which consists of her unmade bed littered with everything from empty booze bottles to cigarette butts and stained sheets, is set to be one of the star attractions at the Turner Contemporary later this year.

My Bed will be on display at the gallery in her home town of Margate alongside a collection of JMW Turner's seascapes and stormy skies, loaned from Tate's collection and chosen by the artist.

The work famously features Ms Emin's own bed and gives a snapshot of her life after a traumatic relationship breakdown.

It offers 'an unconventional and uncompromising self-portrait through objects', in which the artist herself is absent. It has long since inspired discussion over whether or not it is indeed 'art'.

Originally made in her Waterloo council flat in 1998 and included in her Turner Prize exhibition in 1999, the bed is on long term loan to the Tate following its purchase by a private collector in 2014.

CONTROVERSIAL: My Bed is perhaps Tracey Emin's most famous work

My Bed had been originally purchased by Charles Saatchi for £150,000 but sold at auction three years ago for £2.5 million.

It will be the second time Emin's work has been displayed at the gallery after her She Lay Down Deep Beneath The Sea exhibition back in 2012.

The artist, now 54, grew up in Margate with her twin brother Paul and courted huge controversy when she said she had suffered an unreported rape at the age of 13 as "what happened to a lot of girls" in the town.

She went on to study fashion at Medway College of Design - now the University for the Creative Arts - where she met, and had a brief relationship with, the musician, writer and artist Billy Childish.

His was one of the names on her Everyone I Have Ever Slept With, a tent with the names, as the title suggests, she had slept with - both sexual and platonic - which shot her to fame.

Her return to the Turner is another boost for the popular gallery on the sea front which recently announced it is to host the Turner Prize in 2019.

My Bed will be on display at the Turner Contemporary from October 12 until January 14 next year.

Hever's operatic line-up

A HOST of opera runs from August 4-13 as part of Hever Castle's Festival Theatre.

Included is The Impresario, La Boheme, HMS Pinafore and the Pirates of Penzance. Tickets on sale now.

Game night at the museum

MAIDSTONE Museum is hosting a board games night on July 27 at 6pm.

Some of the latest head-scratching games from publisher Thames and Kosmos will be available to play with experts and other board games fanatics at the cafe at the town centre site.

Tolkien's Niggle on stage

FOLLOW Niggle on his journey within his ever-expanding painting as Richard Medrington depicts JRR Tolkien's masterpiece, Leaf By Niggle at the Theatre Royal Margate on November 21.

Boat trip tales set sail

ENJOY a stage rendition of Jerome K Jerome's classic Three Men in A Boat courtesy of the Gravesend & District Theatre Guild's Young Players between July 27-29.

The lively performances of the trip along the river are being staged at the Guild Theatre in Vale Road.

Lashings of celebrity faces

ALL-STAR cricket team Lashings will play at Hormonden Cricket Club on July 30 against a celebrity side organised by sponsors Jewson.

Post match music comes from X Factor's Sam Bailey.

Dig for archaeology day

LEARN to become an archaeologist for the day at the Powell-Cotton Museum at Birchington's Quex Park on July 30.

Featuring fun for all the family, the event is part of the National Festival of Archaeology and runs from 10am to 3pm. Tickets cost £4.95 for adults and £3.50 for children.

Head to Deal this week

DEAL Regatta Week and Carnival gets under way this weekend with a host of special events lined up for young and old alike.

It all culminates in the popular carnival on July 27.

Nautical delights at creek

FAVERSHAM Creek will be welcoming a plethora of boats and barges as thousands flock this weekend for its fifth annual nautical festival.

There will be food, drink and a host of entertainment lined-up across the day from 10am until 6pm. Entry is free.

Castle gets to the point with jousting summer

By Chris Britcher
chris.britcher@archant.co.uk

THE medieval colourful drama of jousting returns to Hever Castle this weekend, with a host of displays planned throughout the summer holidays.

The summer jousting tournament runs across this weekend and next, and then August 12-13, 19-20 and 25-28.

With experienced jousting experts portraying the roles of the knights of royal England, they will thrill audiences with carefully choreographed stunts, falls and fights, all in the confines of an authentic arena complete with a royal box.

Battling it out in the saddle and on foot in one-to-one combat, the valiant knights will compete for points to find this season's ultimate champion.

Before every event there will be a procession from the castle forecourt with actors portraying Henry VIII, Anne Boleyn and the knights as they make their way to the jousting arena.

Hever Castle was the childhood home of Anne Bolyen, Henry VIII's second wife - a marriage which prompted the king to renounce catholicism and create the Church of England.

In later years, the 13th century building passed into the ownership of another of the king's wives, Anne of Cleaves.

Access to the medieval spectator stands to witness the jousting in an authentic setting is available at a small extra cost on a first-come, first-served basis, otherwise, simply bring a blanket to sit on and watch the action unfold before you.

Pick a team to support and then cheer them on to glory.

Over the weekend of August 19-20 there will be an extra special event as the Royals take on the Rebels as Henry VIII's mercenaries battle it out in a jousting tournament against 'the establishment'.

Admission prices for the gardens only are £14.20 for adults and £9 for children. Family tickets are available for £38.90. Additional charges apply for the castle.

COLOURFUL: Choose your team to cheer on

ACTION: Fun-packed action at Hever Castle this summer

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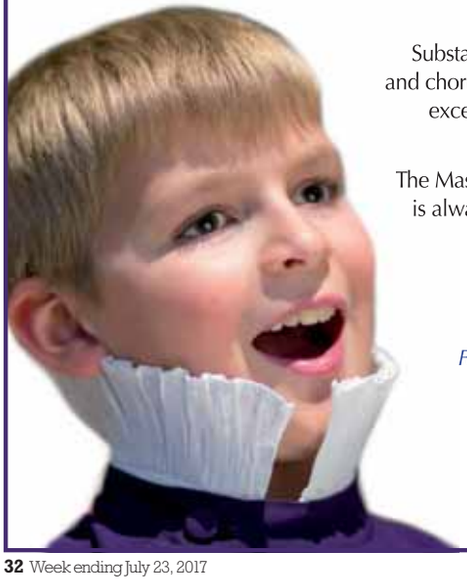

Substantial scholarships are awarded and choristers benefit from an all-round excellent education at St Edmund's School Canterbury.

The Master of Choristers, David Flood, is always pleased to meet and advise parents and their sons.

For further details please telephone

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davidf@canterbury-cathedral.org

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Candice still struggling to get to grips with victory

Crowned Bake Off queen, Candice Brown has now published her first cookery book full of tasty treats

CANDICE Brown won the Great British Bake Off last year, and now has her first book out. Let's just say, she's still trying to get her head around these really quite delicious facts.

"It's funny saying that...'my book!'" she says, with a small, bemused laugh.

Winning Bake Off, the ultimate show for those who pride themselves on the quality of their lemon drizzle and the sturdiness of their pie crust, would, you'd think, prepare a person for automatic cookbook domination and a tasty TV career. However, 32-year-old former PE teacher Candice is still utterly gobsmacked.

In fact, when she got the call confirming her book deal, she was wandering around Fortum & Mason, staring at the meat in the butcher's section - and had to hang up to gaze, stunned, at the carcasses for a while longer, while the news sunk in.

Three manic months of writing, cooking, developing (and very little sleep) later, and the result is Comfort, a collection of Candice's tried-and-tested home classics: "The sort of things you want to stick your face in, grab a spoon, dive straight in and worry about burning your mouth later."

Squidged between snaps of her pug Dennis, the recipes are huge, decadent and sometimes borrowed treats - think an enormous, bubbling shepherd's pie, sausage rolls the size of bricks, and her beloved nan's boiled fruit cake.

WINNER: Candice Brown's debut book after her TV show victory

Piecing all the recipes together was something of a challenge though, as Candice admits she's "bloody awful at writing them down".

And if it goes horribly wrong? "Don't worry about it," she says. "You either don't tell anyone and start again, or you turn it into something else and say it was supposed to look like that - that's how I get by a lot of the time."

Minor mishaps aside, Candice, who started baking before the age of five, considers it "one of the only things that comes naturally to me", but still doesn't fully comprehend how she won Bake Off.

"I don't think I was the best baker in the tent," says the pub landlord's daughter, without artifice. "Some days I still don't know how I did what I did, because I hadn't been able to do it at home. Dad always said I was the same at university and school. I'd say, 'I can't do this, I can't do it', then the pressure would hit, and I'd get my head down and do it."

And yes, she will be watching the new series on Channel 4. "It's always been my favourite programme - it's going to be so funny. Prue [Leith] is a culinary legend, then you've got Paul who'll just give that ice stare and wind everyone up."

Comfort: Delicious Bakes And Family Treats by Candice Brown, is published in hardback by Ebury Press, priced £20.

Learn all about coding

GRAVESEND library is hosting a summer holiday taster session for its upcoming Digital Den Club.

The club aims to teach children between the ages of eight and 11 how to code, how circuits work, how to program robots and more besides.

The Digital Den Club begins in September, but a preview session will take palce on August 24 between 2-5pm.

Spa town's Pride day

TUNBRIDGE Wells holds its first ever Pride festival next month.

The event, celebrating the LGBTQ+ community, will see a parade through the town centre followed by a day of entertainment at The Forum music venue.

Running from 1-7pm in the Forum Garden, there will there be an evening party, for over 18s, from 7pm until 11pm. Tickets are on sale now.

US band's Deal date

PENNSYLVANIA band This Way to the Egress will be performing in Deal as part of its first ever UK tour.

The six-piece band, which describes its sounds as ''if Tom Waits and Patti Smith made a musical lovechild'' blend punk, brass, cabaret, swing and rock and will be at Deal's Lighthours on August 12. Their upcoming album Onward! Up A Frightening Creek is released on September 22.

Orchard's big Thriller

THE magic of Michael Jackson comes from London's West End to Dartford's Orchard Theatre in March as Thriller Live tours the UK.

The show, a celebration of the career of the self-styled King of Pop, rolls into the venue for a string of shows between March 26-31.

Expect all of the late star's biggest hits, including the likes of Beat It, Bad, Dangerous, I Want You Back and Smooth Criminal.

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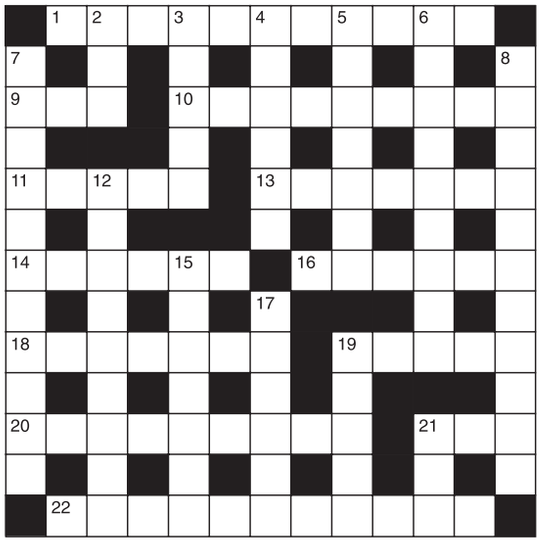
PUZZLES

DOUBLE CROSSWORD



Quick

Across
1. Upkeep (11)
9. Newt (3)
10. Shyness (9)
11. Chosen (5)
13. Gourmet (7)
14. Rural (6)
16. Dread (6)
18. Stress (7)
19. Deserve (5)
20. Exercise (9)
21. Pale (3)
22. Self-possessed (5-6)

Down
2. Perform (3)
3. Courage (5)
4. Regard (6)
5. Attribute (7)
6. Victor (9)
7. Festivity (11)
8. Entering (11)
12. Deceitful (9)
15. Copy (7)
17. Embellish (6)
19. Madness (5)
21. Sorrow (3)

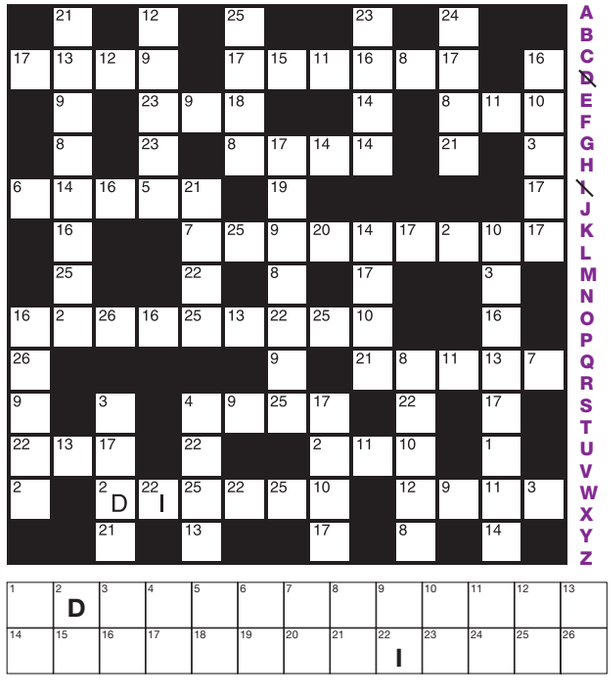
Cryptic

Across
1. Use some influence, as puppeteers do (4,7)
9. See 21 Across.
10. Norma made a variety of notes (9)
11. Give a lift to one in the army (5)
13. High glee will make one of the family lose his head (7)
14. Happens to be a couple of hundred belonging to us all round (6)
16. Give succour to a ship before it's broken up (6)
18. Puts one's name down to be engaged (5,2)
19. Vessel looking the same both ways (5)
20. Nigeria to begin a new arrangement (9)
21 and 9Ac. The fellow needs a long time to run the firm (6)
22. National team not seen in town (11)

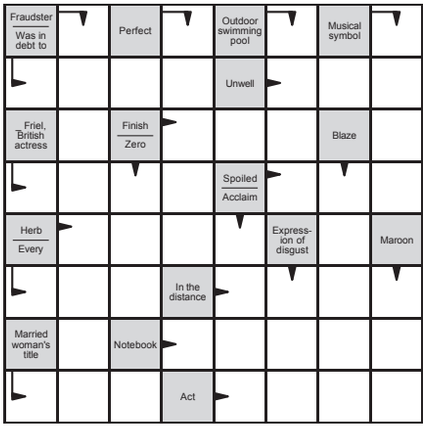
Down
2. It's the custom among industrious employees (3)
3. I'm kept inside illuminated boundary (5)
4. What metalworkers do in a fit of rage (6)
5. Incursions in Greek island, we hear (7)
6. Well-bred state, yet tiling is badly broken up (9)
7. Model exhibition (7,4)
8. Father in establishing a claim is most careful (11)
12. Cognition affected by disguised identity (9)
15. U.S.S.R. in a suitably descriptive rearrangement (7)
17. Not just taking the top off the amusement park (6)
19. Parts of vessels having elegant lines when reversed (5)
21. Mother, being upset, becomes deranged (3)

CODEWORD

This puzzle has no clues. Instead, every number printed in the grid represents a letter, with the same number always representing the same letter.
For example, if 8 turns out to be a V, you can write in V wherever a square contains 8. Using your knowledge of words, complete the puzzle.



Arrowword

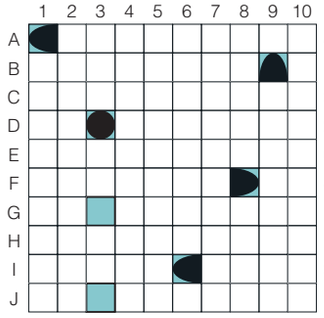


Enter your answers in the direction indicated by the arrows.

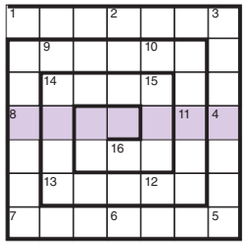
Battleships

Find where ships shown below are hidden in the grid. The numbers to the right of and below the grid indicate how many of the squares in that row are filled in with ships or parts of ships. The ships do not touch each other, even diagonally. Some of the squares have been filled to start you off.

THE FLEET
1 x Battleship
2 x Cruiser
3 x Destroyer
4 x Submarine



Word Spiral



Starting from 1, fill in the grid clockwise with four-letter words. The last letter of each word becomes the first letter of the next to reveal the key word in the shaded boxes.

1. Snake's sound
2. Smoke and fog
3. Network
4. Grime
5. Cash register
6. Remaining
7. Sepulchre
8. Defeat
9. Therefore
10. Celebrity
11. Surprise attack
12. Podium
13. Went quickly
14. Sketch
15. Magician's rod
16. Mend with stitches

Keyword clue: A boy's name

SUDOKU

Hard

9			7		5			3
		8	9		4	1		
	4	5				6	3	
7			2		3			1
	6	3				8	2	
		7	3		1	9		
8			5		7			2

Easy

		5		8		3		
7	4				1			2
1		3	9	2	6			5
	3		1		2		6	
		6		9		7		
	7		6		3		9	
2			4	6	8			7
3		7	2					8
		4		1		2		

Solutions

Arrowword

Battleships

Double Crossword
Cryptic
Across: 1 Pull strings; 9 Age; 10 Memoranda; 11 Hoist; 13 Elation; 14 Occurs; 16 Assist; 18 Signs on; 19 Kayak; 20 Originate; 21 Mav; 22 Countryside. Down: 2 Use; 3 Limit; 4 Temper; 5 Inroads; 6 Gentility; 7 Fashion show; 8 Painstaking; 12 Incognito; 15 Russian; 17 Unfair; 19 Keels; 21 Mad.
Quick
Across: 1 Maintenance; 9 Eft; 10 Reticence; 11 Elite; 13 Epicure; 14 Rustic; 16 Terror; 18 Tension; 19 Merit; 20 Operation; 21 Wan; 22 Level-headed. Down: 2 Act; 3 Nerve; 4 Esteem; 5 Ascribe; 6 Conqueror; 7 Celebration; 8 Penetrating; 12 Insincere; 15 Imitate; 17 Enrich; 19 Mania; 21 Woe.
Codeword
1=F, 2=D, 3=R, 4=Z, 5=Y, 6=P, 7=K, 8=T, 9=O, 10=G, 11=U, 12=H, 13=C, 14=L, 15=Q, 16=A, 17=E, 18=X, 19=M, 20=W, 21=S, 22=I, 23=B, 24=J, 25=N, 26=V
Word Spiral
1 Hiss; 2 Smog; 3 Grid; 4 Dirt; 5 Till; 6 Left; 7 Tomb; 8 Beat; 9 Thus; 10 Star; 11 Raid; 12 Dais; 13 Sped; 14 Draw; 15 Wand; 16 Darn.
Keyword: Bernard

Sudoku - Easy

6	2	5	7	8	4	3	1	9
7	4	9	5	3	1	6	8	2
1	8	3	9	2	6	4	7	5
9	3	8	1	7	2	5	6	4
4	1	6	8	9	5	7	2	3
5	7	2	6	4	3	8	9	1
2	5	1	4	6	8	9	3	7
3	6	7	2	5	9	1	4	8
8	9	4	3	1	7	2	5	6

Sudoku - Hard

3	7	4	6	1	2	5	9	8
9	1	6	7	8	5	2	4	3
5	2	8	9	3	4	1	7	6
2	4	5	1	7	8	6	3	9
7	8	9	2	6	3	4	5	1
1	6	3	4	5	9	8	2	7
6	5	7	3	2	1	9	8	4
8	9	1	5	4	7	3	6	2
4	3	2	8	9	6	7	1	5

Tuscany by steam train

Mark Nicholls embarks on a week-long steam train tour of Tuscany, taking in some very famous sights

Piercing shrill of the whistle, billowing plumes of black smoke, and our steam train tour across central Italy is under way.

It is a journey through some of Tuscany's most spectacular terrain, pausing to explore the classic cities of Pisa, Sienna and Florence, and enjoying mouth-watering cuisine.

Staged by the Railway Touring Company, the week-long steam odyssey begins on Italy's east coast at Rimini. Our train is of beautifully-restored Third Class coaches dating from the 1930s with varnished wooden seats, curtained windows, neat luggage racks and hauled by an Italian class 2-6-0 No 640; destination Florence.

We ease out of the station and settle into a steady beat as we accelerate to 60mph. Poppies flank the tracks, strawberry pickers sit on boxes in fields plucking the ripe fruit while

further on, olive trees line the slopes. The engine driver tugs frequently on the whistle as we cross roads and paths towards Brisighella. Here, our train pauses so we can explore the 16th century church, pick up a coffee and board for the next leg to Marradi.

A constant gradient forces the locomotive to work hard on a line established in 1839 by Grand-duke Leopold of Tuscany to link Italy's east and west coasts via the Apennines. It remains a stunning feat of engineering and set amid rugged landscape.

Marradi looms into view: the loco refreshes with water while we replenish with lunch. Lunch stops are long and relaxed in nearby restaurants.

From Marradi we climb through a series of tunnels then race down the other side toward Florence. There, we have time to explore the Duomo, cross the Ponte Vecchio over the River Arno, and shop in the San Lorenzo Markets. Other attractions include the the Uffizi Art Gallery and the Galleria dell'Accademia, home to Michelangelo's David.

The next stage takes us to Sienna via Empoli and on to Poggibonsi to visit the citadel of San Gimignano, a medieval community of tall, sturdy towers. From the highest, Torre Grossa, the panorama across Tuscany is breathtaking. Back in Sienna, we have time to enjoy the city, wander around the Piazza del Campo – which hosts the famous Palio horse race – and climb the Torre del Mangia.

What is so appealing about the Steam in Tuscany tour is the diversity – there is time to explore the famous cities (Pisa is also included); view the landscape from carriage windows; dine in country restaurants; stay in four-star hotels; and above all have the thrill of travelling aboard steam-hauled trains.

All aboard.

Factfile

Travel details

Mark Nicholls travelled with the Railway Touring Company on a week-long Steam in Tuscany tour (£2295 per person) staying in four star hotels, with meals and flights included.

The Railway Touring Company offers a range of heritage rail based holidays exploring Italy, the UK, Europe and many other destinations across the world. Departing on September 22 for 11 days is the Slovenia, Italy and the Dolomites Steam Express, from £2760 in a journey from Lake Bled to Venice and Verona and further tours Italy planned for next year in Italy include Steam in Sicily (March 2018), Steam in Tuscany (April 2018) and Southern Italy (Sept/Oct 2018). Other departures of interest include the nine-day Christmas Markets of Bavaria, Switzerland & Austria trip from £1870 departing December 9, 2017, while early next year there is the chance to explore Sri Lanka aboard The Viceroy Special. The 13-day adventure departs on February 17, travelling across scenic hill country hauled by British-built Edwardian steam locomotives and costs from £4450.

■ **For more information on these or other departures call 01553 661500 or visit www.railwaytouring.net**

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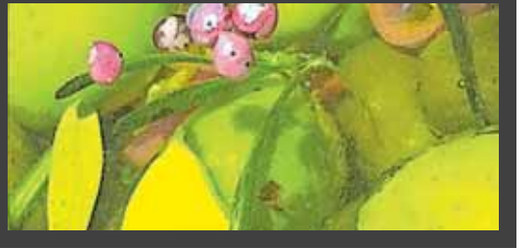

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Advertiser's announcement

Planning a festive party

AS we're in the midst of a scorching summer, Christmas may be the last thing on your mind. However, now may be the perfect time to book your work's festive party.

Whether you're a large workforce, or a small office, Kent has a host of venues with varying packages which could be the icing on the Christmas cake for your celebratory blowout.

Why not choose a hotel?

Hotels across the county offer shared party packages which work brilliantly for smaller groups who still want a big, vibrant, party atmosphere. You'll have a large selection of venues to choose from, and it'll be like pulling a party out of a box, as all the details - such as food, alcohol, and the DJ - will be organised for you.

On another plus side, it's easy to book accommodation for your colleagues if they decide they'd like to stay.

Office of foodies? A restaurant could be for you...

Similar to hotels, restaurant chains and pubs often provide ready-made packages, offering selections of finger-food and alcohols, making life easier for the designated party organiser.

A big up-side to hosting your festivities in a smaller venue like this is that you can usually rent out an entire place just for your party, enabling more freedom than a hotel, and creating a bespoke feel to the celebrations.

Fancy something unique? How about a historical venue?

With an abundance of castles, manor houses, and museums, you're spoilt for choice when it comes to something different for you and your colleagues this Christmas.

Many of these venues will be stringing up fairy lights and tinsel, playing on their history, and creating a merry space to hold a celebration fit for Santa himself.

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THINNER'S A WINNER IN WORKTOPS

Louise Milliken explains the benefits of Origina® for a stunning new look ...

Origina® is the fancy-sounding name TREND Transformations applies to its kitchen worktop and bathroom surfaces. It's beautiful, tough, durable and much thinner than other materials like granite, marble, engineered stone or solid synthetics, but equals or exceeds them in technical performance terms. To prove it, TREND Transformations offers an unrivalled lifetime material warranty. So, with the millionth Origina® already installed worldwide, what makes this distinctive material a winner in the kitchen and bathroom?

LIGHTWEIGHT
Agglomerate is at least two-thirds lighter than other materials, so needs less reinforcement and can be installed vertically and horizontally.

SLIMLINE – produced and fully sealed only a quarter of an inch thick, it fits right on top of existing surfaces without adding depth or substance.

TOUGHER – the slimline profile doesn't compromise strength and, unlike granite slab, Origina® survives the dropped bowling ball test without breaking.

LASTING – TREND Transformations' Origina® retains its luxurious good looks for so long, it is guaranteed against a lifetime of wear and tear.

EASYCARE – unlike granite, marble and engineered stone, which need regular sealing and maintenance, Origina® just requires a wipe over with a damp cloth.

RESISTANT – Origina® is certificated to be highly resistant to liquids, chemicals, scratches, impact and burns and is harder than natural materials.

GREENER – made using a high percentage of recycled content like post-consumer glass and recovered granite and quartz, Origina® is green by design.

AFFORDABLE – Origina® is fitted over existing worktops and other surfaces, making it cheaper, easier and less disruptive to install, with less waste.

VERSATILE – fit it on top of worktops, vanities or wash stands, on floors, stairways and pool surrounds, as splashbacks, shower liners and panels.

BEAUTIFUL – made with Italian granite, quartz or recycled glass, it's beautiful in black, refined in earthen tones, brilliant in white and bold in primary colours. But perhaps the biggest appeal of TREND Transformations Origina® is that it will be measured-up, made off-site and installed by our factory in Tunbridge Wells. What's more, the expert, factory-trained fitters ensure a consistently high standard of workmanship and provide final proof that thinner's a winner.

To talk your ideas through with an interior design consultant, visit your nearest TREND Transformations showroom.

TREND Transformations

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01622 469541

Find us online at: trend-transformations.com/maidstone

TREND transformations

feedback

KCC pay rise is just too much

IT was recommended that Kent county councillors receive an increase in their allowances of 1.5 per cent [KoS, last week].

I wonder how council workers will be feeling when asked by councillors to put a little more time and effort in to help ease the council's financial difficulties?

Councillors claim that a 15 per cent increase in their allowance will encourage a "more diverse" representation in the council chamber.

Had the latest increase in allowances been announced before the elections in May, we could by now have been experiencing a "more diverse" set of councillors in post who would actually represent the views and concerns of Kent residents.

The idea of capitalism as written in the Tory bible is that if you can't afford it you do without it.

I therefore ask myself, am I getting value for my council tax when £250 a week is given to my county councillor? Sadly, the answer is in the negative.

As stated by a previous contributor to KoS, the turkeys in Shepway will always vote for Christmas and then, after only a couple of months, complain bitterly that they've conned again.

Pete Trow,
via email

Paul Carter - you are a disgrace

PLEASE inform KCC leader Paul Carter that all doctors and nurses have had no pay rise now for about four years and when they do get a pay rise it's one per cent.
What makes him think he's better than our wonderful NHS? I am incensed with his greedy arrogant bullying comments. He needs to wake up and smell the coffee.

Yours in absolute disgust.... and a great deal of disbelief,

Caroline Cass,
via email

Let's embrace the jobs opportunity

APPARENTLY, despite the high unemployment in Thanet and east Kent, some people are worrying about all the jobs that RSP (RiverOak) are predicting if and when Manston Airport reopens, as now seems more likely.
They think they will cause more pressure on our local services and so on. Not true.

The key point is that as RiverOak have publicly stated, they are hoping that as many as possible of these new jobs will be for local people, not new people coming into east Kent. That is why they are working with Christ Church College University and East Kent College to up-skill local people as necessary, for the airport jobs. Many of the jobs will anyway be for things like driving and catering, which existing Thanet people can just slot into.

Exciting times ahead for Thanet at last. Let's embrace them, not poo-poo them.

Angela Stevens,
Ramsgate

LETTER OF THE WEEK

Remainers don't care for our work force

IN his recent letter [KoS, last week], Ray Duff shows once again how ignorant he is of the realities of the world.

To begin with, the Trident submarines are not rendered redundant by drone technology and, if we were to abjure nuclear weapons, Mr Duff would find out what it means to live in a dangerous world where rogue states could blackmail us with their own H bombs, as we would have nothing to deter them.

Perhaps Mr Duff would then rely on the goodwill of Donald Trump, whom he so denigrates, to come to our aid.

As far as Brexit is concerned, it becomes more obvious by the day that this is very much a class issue.

Those of us from the working class, particularly lifelong trade unionists such as myself, know how employers have used the EU freedom of movement to undercut the wages of our own people, while the complacent, smug middle class only care about retaining their cheap nannies and plumbers, being unconcerned about the effects of their selfishness on their less well off compatriots.

It is a disgrace that so many Labour MPs are also prepared to support the EU, as the effect of its policies on the labour market is that employees being forced to work zero hours contacts, youngsters to accept unpaid internships, if they wish to gain a foothold in the labour market, and the virtual extirpation of decent career structures, where loyalty and experience are valued and rewarded.

No one who claims to represent the needs of workers should be found on the side of the Remainers, but of course many such as Mr Duff have no understanding of what is really involved.

Colin Bullen
Tonbridge

Got a view? Email us at editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

There won't be night flights...

IN reply to two of your readers, James Baldry and Simon Crow, who have been expressing unfounded facts and information regarding River Oak and the reopening of Manston Airport.

They are scaremongering regarding night flights. RSP will have to apply to the CAA for a certificate to re-open the airport.

The CAA have a very stringent criteria and regulations that have to be followed.

One of these regulations is that Manston will not be allowed any night flights, if RSP succeed in reopening the airport they have to sign a legally binding documents agreeing to a number of restrictions. One is no night flight.

If the company renege on this they would be taken to court and if found guilty would expect a custodial sentence. The freight industry do not need or want night flights, all this misinformation some of your readers are stating is just nonsense, they should check their facts before making unfounded comments.

Dennis Jackson,
Margate

...actually there will be some

GIVEN that RSP has openly admitted it intends to run some night flights - although it says these will be few and far between - its behaviour at a recent consultation event in Birchington left a lot to be desired.

One of those attending pointed out the perils to Ramsgate and was effectively belittled in front of the audience and refused the chance to speak again. I thought this was the clearest indication yet that RSP is not quite the white knight so many assume it is. They may learn that lesson rather too late.

G Giles,
Westgate

Duff's 'scapel of reality' a joke

IN KoS last week, Ray Duff stated his position is to see in power the Green Party as the largest party, in coalition with Corbyn's Labour Party, and the Tories reduced to a single figure party. I say to him: Good luck with that.

To actually put such a ridiculous scenario in writing makes a nonsense of his claim that his pen is the 'scalpel of reality'. Lol.

Christopher Hudson-Gool,
Maidstone

Leave the whelk stall to others

RAY Duff wasted half a page saying very little, as usual ignoring the facts supplied while assuming his usual false superiority. If he opened his mind he'd see the dog's breakfast the 'great pretenders' in Westminster have made of this country and the peril we're now in. I wouldn't trust them to run a whelk stall.

Phil Granger,
West Malling

your say...

Send us your views.
Write to: Room G46, The Panorama, 130 Park Street, Ashford, Kent TN24 8EZ
Email: editorial@kosmedia.co.uk
Twitter: @kosmedia

Please include your name and address, although these will be withheld in exceptional circumstances, and a daytime phone number for verification (this will not be published). We reserve the right to edit all letters.

KOS 10 GUIDING PRINCIPLES

AS part of our commitment to providing the best service to you, we have produced our 10 guiding principles

Kent on Sunday will:

1) Be available in every postcode in Kent.
2) Be fair, accurate and balanced.
3) Be written in clear, concise English.
4) Not be overly sensational.
5) Have a sense of humour.
6) Have an easily understood division between news, comment and advertising.
7) Seek to celebrate as well as constructively criticise.
8) Highlight topical issues of concern to people living in the county.
9) Spotlight individual cases which raise broader concerns.
10) Champion causes that it feels are important to the well-being of the county and its people.

We hope you enjoy Kent on Sunday.

images of kent

Maunsell Forts off Whitstable

by **Brian Summers, from Faversham**

To see your photograph printed, email **editorial@kosmedia.co.uk**,. Be sure to include your name, address and a contact telephone number. Unfortunately we cannot return any prints, and please do not send negatives.

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MODERN: Facelifted Fiat 500L features Urban, crossover-inspired Cross and optional seven-seater Wagon models. Pictures: Fiat

Gadgets breathe new life into facelifted Fiat 500L

FIAT has breathed new life into its 500L multi-purpose vehicle with a range of updates.

The facelifted 500L is available in 10 pastel or metallic colours with three types of roof - body-coloured, glossy black or white or matt black – and offers up to 1,500 internal customisation combinations.

The interior is new, starting with an updated dashboard with larger storage compartment, clearer instruments, restyled multifunction steering wheel and a higher gear lever for greater comfort. The 500L is available in three distinct models – Urban, Cross and Wagon.

Urban, in Pop Star and Lounge trims, gets an all-new Denim Blue colour, as well as LED running lights and 16in wheels.

More adventurously-designed Cross features 17in alloy wheels, 25mm more ground clearance and a new driving mode selector with normal, traction+ and gravity control settings. Traction+ helps starting on slippery surfaces transferring torque to the front wheel with most grip and braking the other below 18mph. Gravity control keeps the speed constant when descending steep slopes.

Wagon, in Pop Star and Lounge trims, has the option of seven seats, making it the most compact seven-seater currently on the market.

Every version can customise its style, connectivity, comfort and safety features by adding city, comfort, safety, style and style plus packs.

Fiat says 40 per cent of components are new, and additions such as Apple CarPlay and Android Auto are some of the more prominent updates. Internal space is top of its class, thanks to the passenger compartment's generous length.

Petrol engines include 95hp 1.4-litre and 120hp 1.4-litre T-Jet turbo and turbo diesels are 95hp 1.3-litre and 120hp 1.6-litre units.

Prices start at £16,195 on the road for a Urban 1.4 95hp Pop Star, with first deliveries from September.

KENT LIFE

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Fresh-faced Yaris in a class of its own

Toyota has high hopes for its new Yaris supermini, looking to the diesel dilemma to help boost sales of the more refined hybrid, says motors editor Andy Russell

TOYOTA'S revised Yaris supermini has a more dynamic look, more standard safety kit, more refined hybrid and a new petrol engine while dumping diesel power... at a time many drivers are doing the same.

A more three-dimensional front end – supposedly catamaran shaped – has new headlights and grille for a wider, lower look. It also gets new lower door mouldings, colours, wheel designs, tailgate and rear lights.

New seat trims, colour choices and revised information display can't disguise the ageing interior but the coloured panels of Bi-tone, now a trim rather than special edition, give it a lift.

A new 110bhp 1.5-litre petrol engine has more low-down pull, power and performance than the old 1.33-litre unit but is up to 12% better on fuel. It's not as strong as smaller, turbo engines and gets vocal.

The 68bhp 1.0-litre triple is fine for urban driving.

Toyota is looking to the full hybid version topping 40 per cent of sales. It says hybrid customers have higher expectations – to go with the higher price – so, as well as extra kit, it has been made quieter and smoother. Retuned shock absorbers and electric power steering improve ride comfort and driving appeal.

The driving experience is tailored to comfort, in tune with its audience, and the handling is equally middle of the road - neither dynamic or daunting. It corners competently despite light, lifeless steering.

There are roomier superminis but the Yaris, now only available with five doors, will seat four adults with some give and take for long-legged.

The 286-litre boot is class competitive and the 60/40 split rear seat backs fold flush with the removable sill-level floor panel.

All models get Toyota Safety Sense as standard with autonomous emergency braking, automatic high beam, lane departure alert and, on all but entry Active, road sign assist.

Available in Active, Icon, Icon Tech, Design, Bi-Tone and Excel trims, the two Icon specs will be the big sellers with 15in alloy wheels, cruise control, air-conditioning, 4.2in colour multi-information screen, multi-media touchscreen, rear-view camera and, on Icon Tech, satellite navigation, access to online services and front sensors.

Toyota Yaris 1.5 Hybrid

Price: **from £15,995**

Engine tested: **1,497cc, 73bhp, four-cylinder petrol and 59bhp electric motor – total 98bhp – with CVT automatic gearbox**

Performance: **0-62mph 11.8 seconds; top speed 103mph**

MPG: **15in wheels 85.6; 16in wheels 78.5**

CO2 emissions: **75/82g/km**

5 year TOYOTA WARRANTY

Yaris Hybrid Design 5 door 1.5 VVT-i Auto. Official Fuel Consumption Figures in mpg (l/100km): Urban 85.6 (3.3), Extra Urban 78.5 (3.6), Combined 78.5 (3.6). CO2 Emissions 82g/km. All mpg and CO2 figures quoted are sourced from official EU regulated laboratory test results. These are provided to allow comparisons between vehicles and may not reflect your actual driving experience.

Model shown is Yaris Hybrid Design 5 door 1.5 VVT-i Auto at £18,145. Price excludes metallic paint at £515. Prices correct at time of going to print. *0% APR Representative only available on new retail orders of Yaris Hybrid (excluding Active grade) between 1st July 2017 and 30th September 2017 and registered and financed through Toyota Financial Services by 30th September 2017 on a 3.5 year AccessToyota (PCP) plan with 0%-35% deposit. ^Payment shown is based on a 42 month AccessToyota contract with £3,276.00 customer deposit, £1,000 Finance Deposit Allowance and Guaranteed Future Value/Optional Final Payment. Toyota Financial Services (UK) PLC; registered office Great Burgh, Burgh Heath, Epsom, Surrey, KT18 5UZ. Authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority. Indemnities may be required. Finance subject to status to over 18s. Other finance offers are available but cannot be used in conjunction with this offer. 8,000 miles per annum, excess miles over contracted charged at 8p per mile. Toyota Centres are independent of Toyota Financial Services. Terms and conditions apply. †2 years free servicing on Toyota Hybrid models ordered between 1st July and 30th September 2017 and registered by 30th September 2017. Affordable finance through AccessToyota. 5 year/100,000 mile manufacturer warranty subject to terms and conditions. Participating Centres only.

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23 April, 2018 • Quote BD4-KOS

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INCLUDED: Escorted return rail travel St Pancras and Ebbsfleet to Amsterdam OR return flights with luggage from a choice of UK airports - supp't may apply • 4-nights full board cruise sharing a twin bed outside cabin on Cabin Deck - upgrades available • Beer, wine by the glass and soft drinks served at lunch, dinner and from 6pm to midnight at the bar • Morning coffee and afternoon tea • Buffet breakfast and lunch • Dinner served at your table • Captain's dinner • Entertainment • Excursion to Keukenhof Gardens • Transfers abroad • Services of our Cruise Director

*conditions apply to low deposit - please call for details

3 nights half board PLUS £139pp

Super 60s to Mamma Mia Christmas Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Friday 17 Nov, 2017 • Quote: CP11-2-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for an early taste of Christmas – for over 40s only – as we rock around the Christmas tree to the sounds of the 60s, 70s and Abba. Entertainment includes super mimics The Barron Knights, The Swinging Blue Jeans, Roy Carter (ex-Drifters & Foundations), Vivo – The New All Stars with Keith Slater, PLUS Mamma Mia the movie and an Abba tribute band. Enjoy non-stop entertainment from Friday night to Sunday night, half price drinks and a fab festive atmosphere.

INCLUDED Half-price drinks all weekend - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers lunch times & evenings from Friday night to Sunday night • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - £139pp - bed linen and towels included - club upgrade available - £169pp • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free car parking

3 nights half board PLUS £149pp

Mamma Mia & Super 70s Spring Party

Pontins Pakefield, Suffolk Coast

Friday 9 March, 2018 • Quote: MS3-KOS

Join us at Pontins Pakefield, on the Suffolk coast, for a Spring blast - for over 40s only - as we rock the weekend away to the sounds of the 70s. Our brilliant entertainment bill features Abba's Angels and a screening of Mamma Mia the Movie, Showaddywaddy, Saturday Night Bee Gees, Little Eagle, a celebration of Neil Diamond PLUS house band Sounds Imperial. You'll enjoy non-stop entertainment from Friday evening to Sunday evening and half-price drinks at this rockin' party weekend.

INCLUDED: Half-price drinks all weekend - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers lunch times & evenings from Friday night to Sunday night • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet - £149pp - bed linen and towels included - club upgrade available - £179pp • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Free car parking

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Working as part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to students mornings, evenings and weekends being a student's Keyworker and some management responsibility.

£22,667 - £25,671pa - 41 hours per week. All year round Interviews: 12th September 2017

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS – Residential Care

As part of the childcare team, this role involves providing care and support to young people in the residential home. For this role candidates are required to have some experience of care work.

£15,238 – 15,507 plus 10% per annum - 41 hours per week, (including weekends) – Term time only, plus 2 weeks* Interviews – 18th September

TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS – Education

These roles involve being responsible for assisting teachers in a classroom setting. Experience in this field is desirable.

£13,936 – £14,182 per annum - 37.5 hours per week (8:30am – 4:30pm Monday – Friday), Term time only, plus 2 weeks* Interviews – 19th September

CHILDCARE SUPPORT ASSISTANTS

As part of the childcare teams, these roles involve providing care and support to the children and young people mornings, evenings and weekends. No experience required, full training will be given.

£11,752 - £12,085 plus 10% per annum – 36.5 hours per week, (including weekends – more hours available)
Term time only, plus 2 weeks* or 15 hours per week part-time pro-rata. Interviews – 18th September 2017

WAKING NIGHT ATTENDANTS

This role involves remaining awake in order to be responsible for the supervision and care of our young people at night, particularly ensuring that night time routines follow pre-agreed strategies and procedures.

£18,070 - £20,138 plus 1/3 per annum – 36.75 hours per week (including weekends)
Term time only plus 2 weeks* and 52 week staff required Interviews: 12th September 2017

GROUNDSPERSON

Working as part of the Maintenance Team, this role involves undertaking routine gardening, security duties, general portering, assist in moving furniture, operating machinery and being aware of Health and Safety responsibilities.

£23,398 - £24,964 – 37 hours per week. All year round Interviews: 25th September 2017

FLEXIBANK TEAM SUPPORT WORKERS

We have some additional opportunities to provide additional cover within either the classrooms or residences on an ad-hoc hourly paid basis, up to 41 hours per week including split shifts and weekends.

Please contact us for further details.

Interviews to be held on an ad-hoc basis

***For these roles there will also be up to a maximum of two weeks for the school's respite care provision if required, for which extra payment would be paid.**

For all posts we look for candidates who are mature, warm, creative and open to learning with a patient and caring attitude to deal sensitively with vulnerable children.
We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email, so for an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk. Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).
Please note that CVs will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is midnight Friday 25th August 2017

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The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

Marketing Assistant – Dover

Full Time - 37.5 hours per week Salary - £21k per annum
Closing date: On going Interview date: TBC
Qualifications and Experience

- Maths and English GCSE Grade C and above (or equivalent)
- Dealing with local press
- 12 months' experience working in a marketing administration environment
- Social Media marketing experience
- Motivated, with ability to work under pressure
- CMS (Content Management System)
- Hold full, clean driving license, with access to own transport

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: David Osborne on 01304 222679

Risk and Compliance Manager - Dover

Full Time – 37.5 hours per week Salary - £38, 000 per annum
Closing Date –TBC Interview Date – TBC
Qualifications and Experience

- NEBOSH or IOSH qualified
- Significant experience in a similar role
- Proven track record of formulating and implementing risk management strategies and operating practices
- Proven track record of implementing organisational and local Quality Management systems
- Experience of writing, maintaining and monitoring business continuity plans
- Previous experience of successful IIP or ISO implementations in similar organisation(s)
- Ability to travel between sites

To discuss this opportunity, or to arrange an informal visit, please contact: Lynn Orrin, Hospital Director on 01843 234554
For job descriptions and application forms please visit our website: www.spencerprivatehospitals.com/careers
Alternatively, please contact Carina Pieries, HR Assistant on 01304 222687 or Email recruitment@spencerhospitals.com
Previous applicants need not apply

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This position is subject to a Disclosure and Barring check.

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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

PUBLIC NOTICE
Application for New Premises Licence

We Mid Kent Pub Co Limited hereby give notice that we have made an application to the Medway Council, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR to

1. To vary Condition 8 relating to CCTV, to clarify that pre-booked functions are not Events within the meaning of event given in Condition 11 to clarify in Condition 21 Relating to types of drinking vessels to be in use to vary condition 22 relating to use of the stage. To remove condition 23 relating to advertising.
2. To extend the terminal hour for the provision of all licensable activities held in the basement function room (otherwise known as the vaults) from 24.00 to 01.00 daily between 1st November and 30th December
3. To extend the terminal hour for the provision of all licensable activities held at the premises on New Year's Eve from 24.00-02.00

In respect of the premises situated at Dock Road, Chatham, ME4 4TZ and known by the sign of The Command House.

The application can be viewed at the offices of the Medway Council, Licensing Department, Gun Wharf, Dock Road, Chatham, Kent ME4 4TR during normal office hours (website address www. medway.gov.uk)

Any person wishing to make representation concerning this application should do so in writing to the above local authority and within 10 consecutive working days of the submission of the application, that is no later than 16th August 2017.

It is an offence knowingly or recklessly to make a false statement in connection with an application and the maximum fine for which a person is liable on summary conviction for the offence.is and unlimited fine.

Stephen Thomas LAW 8,
Grassmere, Leybourne, Kent, ME19 5QP
Authorised Agents for and on behalf of the applicant

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

PERAM SINGH trading as PS HAULAGE LIMITED of 38 Hillside Road, Crayford, Dartford DA1 3NS is applying for a licence to use TARMAC SOUTHERN LTD, Hothfield, Ashford TN25 4JJ as an operating centre for 3 goods vehicles and 0 trailers

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide to Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR RENEWAL OF A SEXUAL ENTERTAINMENT VENUE

ADDRESS OF PREMISES: 2-8 High Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8TD.

TAKE NOTICE that WKM Leisure Ltd of 2-8 High Street, Ashford, Kent, TN24 8TD hereby give notice that we have applied to the Ashford Borough Council under the provisions of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982 to renew a licence to use the premises referred to above as a sexual entertainment venue.

REPRESENTATIONS

Any person who wishes to make representations about the application should make them in writing and send them to the Head of Environmental Services, Ashford Borough Council, Civic Centre, Tannery Lane, Ashford, Kent, TN23 1PL. Representations must be received by (21 days from the date of this notice).

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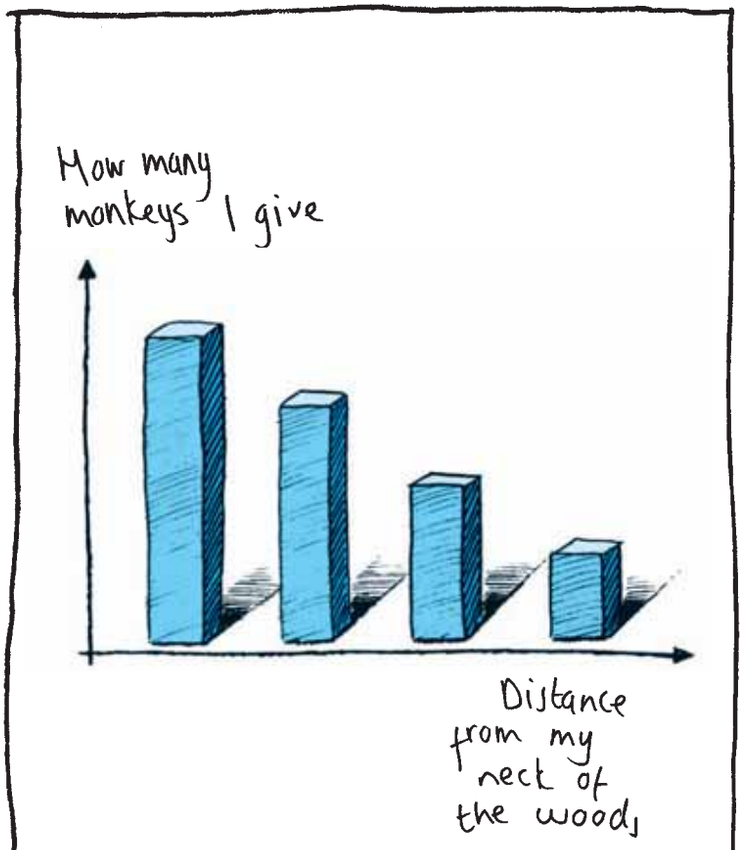

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More facts at www.thewantedads.co.uk

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*Source: GB TGI 2009 Q3 (April 2008 - March 2009)
**Source: The Wanted Ads STAGE 1. GFK NOP Base: all adults

Shakey gears up for Brands return

The British Superbike Championship is back in the county

Motorsport

By Tom Pyman
tom.pyman@archant.co.uk

SHANE 'Shakey' Byrne is back in Kent this weekend as the British Superbike Championship returns to Brands Hatch.

As the championship reaches the halfway point of the season, record-breaker Byrne is just seven points adrift of the standings leader, Luke Mossey, as he heads into his home round on the spectacular Grand Prix circuit.

However with some of the world's leading riders lining up on the grid including Leon Haslam and Josh Brookes, he is going to have to fight all the way to the finish in Sunday's two headline races.

Five-time champion Byrne, who scored a double win last time out at Snetterton, said: "Everyone always says to me about Brands Hatch being 'my circuit'; I guess that might be because I probably like it more than anyone else.

"That feeling when you turn left at Surtees and head out onto the Grand Prix circuit is like a magical roller-coaster of tarmac and I just can't wait to get out there. My aim for Brands Hatch is to repeat what we did at Snetterton; I would love another double win and to put on a great show for the home crowd.

"It feels like my season has really started now and both myself and the Be Wiser Ducati team will be doing everything to be strong again this weekend."

The weekend also features a packed schedule of support races including the Dickies British Supersport and the Pirelli National Superstock 1000 Championships.

Also in action will be the breath-taking Hyundai Heavy Industries British Sidecar series which features popular former Superbike star Chris Walker.

There's a wealth of off-track entertainment adding to the festival atmosphere, including a huge open-air concert on Saturday evening in aid of the Care After Combat charity, with compere Jim Davidson introducing stage acts including Beatles and Queen tribute bands.

Other attractions include drifting demonstrations, a Kawasaki display, fairground, go-karting, children's playground and trade stands.

READY: Shane 'Shakey' Byrne is eyeing another double victory weekend

Walker calls for consistency from Spitfires

Cricket

KENT'S head coach Matt Walker believes his Spitfires side need to find some consistent form, and fast, if they are to qualify for the knock-out stages of this season's T20 Blast.

Walker's side dropped to sixth place in the South Group table following this week's back-to-back defeats against Gloucestershire and Middlesex and the coach says that the Jekyll and Hyde performances must end soon.

"There has been a perfect symmetry to our displays in that we play really well and then perform poorly," said the former batsman.

"In the two games we've won we have looked like a brilliant side, yet in the games we've lost the team have looked a fragile unit, particularly when it comes down to our middle-order batting.

BOSS: Matt Walker

"We've struggled to adapt to wickets when they've not been the type of surfaces we'd really like them to be. All our batters want the ball coming on and pace on the ball, they want to trust the surface to hit through the line. But we've struggled when the pitches haven't been like that, so we need to learn, and learn quick.

"I want the guys to make sure that they are very clear in their thinking when they go about setting a total on theses tricky types of pitch and not to panic. In the games we've lost we just haven't got our thinking right and that's frustrating because there's some very experienced players in the side now.

"I guess T20 can be like that, you can't get too excited when you win or get too down when results don't quite go your way."

Sport Shorts

» Email **sports@kosmedia.co.uk** or call **Tom Pyman** on **01233653477**

Asher-Smith back on track after foot injury

DINA Asher-Smith returned to 200m action last weekend as she stepped up her preparations for the world championships in London next month.

The Orpington sprinter has been frustrated on the sidelines recently after suffering a broken foot and returned to the track earlier this month but looked off the pace in the 100m, as she crossed the line in 11.53 seconds - her slowest in three years.

On her 200m season debut in Padova on Sunday, however, Asher-Smith ran an impressive 23.15 - just behind winner Allyson Felix, who crossed the line in 22.80.

The 21-year-old is the fastest British woman of all time over both distances, and claimed a bronze medal in the relay at last year's Olympic Games in Rio.

She will compete for Great Britain in next month's championships in Stratford alongside fellow Kent athletes Adam Gemili, Jack Green and Tom Bosworth, who set a race walking world record earlier this month.

STAR: Dina Asher-Smith

HOME: Stonebridge Road will be hoping to complete the stand soon

Firm building Fleet stand ceases trading

THE firm responsible for building most of Ebbsfleet United's £5m main stand has ceased trading with the project yet to be completed.

The development, which can accommodate 1,100 fans at Stonebridge Road, began opening to fans last year, as Fleet secured promotion to the top tier of non-league football.

An official statement read: "The club regrets to announce that it has been formally advised that the main contractor building the club's new main stand – Trak Special Projects Ltd (TSP) – has ceased trading. A further announcement will be issued in due course. Supporters can be assured that we are working with our advisors to minimise the impact of this announcement in completing the last elements of the main stand fit-out."

Bingham signs for Gillingham

FORMER Crystal Palace prospect Billy Bingham has become Gillingham's latest signing.

The defensive midfielder arrives at Priestfield on a two-year deal after leaving Crewe Alexandra and impressing in a friendly against Dover last weekend.

Speaking to the club website after signing his contract he said: "I'm buzzing to be here; I've been here on trial for the last week. The boys are great, I'm close to home and I'm delighted because it's a big club. I can't wait for August 5."

The 27-year-old began his career at Palace but in search of first team football joined Dagenham & Redbridge, then enjoying loan spells at Sutton United and Grays Athletic.

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